

# Italy

## KEY FACTS

**Official name:** Repubblica Italiana (Italian Republic)

**Head of State:** President Giorgio Napolitano (elected May 2006, re-elected 20 Apr 2013)

**Head of government:** Prime Minister Enrico Letta (from Feb 2013)

**Ruling party:** Coalition led by the Italia. Bene Comune (IBC) (Italy. Common Good) alliance (including the Partito Democratico (PD) (Democratic Party)), the Coalizione del Centrodestra (Centre-right Coalition) (including the Il Popolo della Libertà (the People of Freedom)) and Con Monti per l'Italia (CMI) (With Monti for Italy) (including Scelta Civica (Civic Choice)) (from Feb 2013).

**Area:** 301,277 square km

**Population:** 60.82 million (2012)

**Capital:** Rome

**Official language:** Italian

**Currency:** Euro (€) = 100 cents (from 1 Jan 2002; previous currency lira, locked at L1,936.27 per euro) (Campione d'Italia, an Italian enclave near Lake Lugano in Switzerland, uses the Swiss franc, although the euro also circulates)

**Exchange rate:** €0.75 per US\$ (Jul 2013)

**GDP per capita:** US\$33,115 (2012)\*

**GDP real growth:** -2.37% (2012)\*

**GDP:** US\$2,014.08 billion (2012)\*

**Labour force:** 25.79 million (2012)\*

**Unemployment:** 10.66% (2012)\*

**Inflation:** 3.30% (2012)\*

**Oil production:** 112,000 bpd (2012)

**Natural gas production:** 7.80 billion cum (2012)

**Balance of trade:** US\$25.40 billion (2012)\*

\* estimated figure



Italians' fear of finding themselves saddled, once again, with the discredited Mr Silvio Berlusconi as prime minister receded dramatically in June 2013 when the septuagenarian politician was convicted for paying for the services of a seventeen year old female Moroccan immigrant. Mr Berlusconi was sentenced to seven years in jail and banned for life from holding public office. Although the jail sentence for juvenile prostitution attracted the most attention, Mr Berlusconi received a further six relating to the exploitation of his official position. Mr

Berlusconi's defence did him little good: the Italian judges instructed prosecutors to examine the statements of 30 witnesses for evidence of perjury. Italian – and other European – legislators who had long toyed with the idea of placing an age limit on political office saw the Berlusconi case as proof positive. Mr Berlusconi seemed to be living in a fantasy world where laws could be ignored and where a telephone call to the right policeman or politician could be relied on to by-pass any possible inconvenience. However disillusional, Mr Berlusconi was not prepared to throw in

the towel; his defence team announced their intention to appeal, which meant that his sentence(s) could be overturned. The juvenile prostitution conviction could possibly be annulled by a higher court.

### From Andreotti, via Craxi and Berlusconi, to Beppe Grillo

Foreign observers are often surprised by the integrity of the Italian judiciary. They forget that it was the Italian legal system that was the guarantor of the end of fascism. The independent characteristic of the Italian judiciary has its roots in the World War II, a bravely drafted Constitution. This has often resulted in surprising revelations, particularly of corruption. Sadly, the same integrity does not – even in 2013 – always extend to its politicians, a state of affairs best exemplified by Berlusconi but with its less extrovert antecedents dating back to the days of Giulio Andreotti ('Il Divo') the Democrazia Cristiana (DC) (Christian Democracy) party prime minister who led his country for a record-breaking seven terms, albeit not consecutively. Mr Andreotti died in May 2013 aged 94. No other politician dominated post-war Italy more than Mr Andreotti, not even Mr Berlusconi, who only managed four terms as prime minister. Additionally, Mr Andreotti had at various times held portfolios of finance, treasury, defence and industry.

Since the founding of the Italian Republic in 1946, no less than 26 men have held the position of prime minister, some for no more than one month. The average term of office is around two-and-a-half years. There may have been twenty-six prime ministers, but half of them served multiple terms, the record holder being Mr Andreotti, with his seven different administrations. Amintore Fanfani served six terms, Aldo Moro and Mariani Rumor each served five terms and Berlusconi served four. Andreotti was by his nature a wheeler-dealer. He concluded agreements not only with the Partito Comunista Italiano (PCI) (Italian Communist Party), but also with the leader of the Cosa Nostra (mafia) in Sicily, Stefano Bontade, and thereby guaranteeing a DC election victory. It later transpired that Mr Andreotti, who was aware beforehand of the imminent assassination of local politician Piersanti Mattarella, had suggested to Mr Bontade that the murder method was 'less brutal'. The only position that eluded Mr Andreotti was that of president. Try as he might, his reputation – and the murmurings that accompanied it – ran before him. His political manipulations and reputed

criminal links – which went so far as to associate him with the murder of former Prime Minister Aldo Moro – held him back.

On to the political stage stepped Bettino Craxi, the one time leader of the Partito Socialista Italiano (PSI) (Italian Socialist Party) (from 1976 to 1993) and Italy's longest serving prime minister from 1983 to 1987. Mr Craxi, the first member of the PSI to hold the office, as well as the third prime minister from a socialist party, took political corruption to another – more widespread – level. Party supporters were appointed to key management positions on the understanding that they would cream off funds for the benefit of their political masters; illegal kickbacks were demanded in return for almost all public contracts. Craxi's socialists were not the only ones lining up at the trough, but they were the ones with the biggest appetite. It was estimated that in Milan, the heartland of Craxi's political support, bribes worth US\$90 million changed hands annually during the boom years of his premiership: 50 per cent went to the PSI, 20 per cent to the DC, 20 per cent to the PCI and the rest to the minor government parties that toed the line. The system, known as *Tangentopoli* (Bribesville), fell apart under a combination of growing political greed and economic recession that made the burden no longer possible for the businessmen who were asked to cough up. Mr Craxi's spectacular style of politics did not come cheap. Party conferences were no longer gatherings of earnest socialist

working men, but lavish productions frequented by an Italian social elite. Political debate was replaced by the adulation of the leader. The austerity once preached by Craxi when he first became party secretary was forgotten as he took to the world stage. Mr Craxi courted the media – in the process becoming known as the man who made Berlusconi his fortune.

By 2013 any likelihood of Berlusconi's return to Italian politics was not only enough to cause alarm in the Italian electorate, more importantly, it also did so in Brussels, Berlin and Washington. To make his point, in an August 2012 newspaper interview the then Prime Minister Mario Monti claimed that were Mr Berlusconi to regain power the spread between German and Italian bond yields would rise to around 1,200 points.

If a large part of the Italian electorate had begun to fear Berlusconi's election, in late 2012 and early 2013 about as many had reason to fear Beppe Grillo (which roughly translated means 'Jiminy Cricket'), the eccentric Johnny Come Lately of Italian politics. One commentator noted that if 'You put Beppe Grillo in office, his promise of catharsis in public life will result in chaos.' Others murmured that he was the new Mussolini, or that the 'vulgar' Beppe Grillo was little more than a 'Rousseau passed through the ashes of Ralph Nader and his consumers' rights campaign.'

In the February 2013 parliamentary elections, Mr Grillo and his 'Grillini' supporters won no less than 163 seats in

## KEY INDICATORS

Italy

	Unit	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Population	m	59.62	60.05	60.34	*60.63	*60.82
Gross domestic product (GDP)	US\$bn	2,313.90	2,118.30	2,055.10	2,198.70	*2,014.08
GDP per capita	US\$	38,996	35,435	34,059	36,267	*33,115
GDP real growth	%	-1.2	-5.5	1.8	0.4	*-2.4
Inflation	%	3.5	0.8	1.6	2.9	*3.3
Unemployment	%	7.8	7.8	8.4	8.4	*10.7
Oil output	'000 bpd	108.0	95.0	106.0	110.0	112.0
Natural gas output	bn cum	8.4	7.4	7.6	7.7	7.8
Exports (fob) (goods)	US\$m	546,857.0	407,160.0	448,374.0	502,978.0	*478,932.0
Imports (fob) (goods)	US\$m	546,908.0	403,900.0	475,652.0	523,076.0	*453,531.0
Balance of trade	US\$m	-51.0	3,259.0	-27,278.0	-20,098.0	*25,402.0
Current account	US\$m	-78,874.0	-41,004.0	-71,986.0	-67,366.0	*-10,654.0
Total reserves minus gold	US\$m	37,088.0	45,770.0	47,684.0	48,968.0	*50,499.0
Foreign exchange	US\$m	35,306.0	34,521.0	35,678.0	34,334.0	*34,816.0
Exchange rate	per US\$	0.68	0.78	0.76	0.75	*0.77
* estimated figure						

parliament (Senate and Chamber of Deputies), making them Italy's largest political party. This electoral success was seen by many as the result of desperation. One political commentator summed up the Beppe Grillo strategy as one of a 'a personal dictatorship over a rag-tag of followers, egging on the more extreme demonstrations with his inflammatory and apocalyptic diatribes against Italy's representative democracy.' It was Italy's traditional right-wing overseas postal vote that prevented Beppe Grillo from obtaining the most votes. Despite that setback, under the Italian electoral system Beppe Grillo's supporters ended up with a hugely impressive 25.5 per cent of electoral support. The success was largely due to the deployment of what was a traditional, or 'classic' electoral campaign that used methods adapted to the modern world. Beppe Grillo was the only political leader to hold meetings in the squares of isolated villages and towns. In his speeches, Beppe Grillo was able, repeatedly, to exploit one theme above all – the simple fact that Europe's political leaders, all advocates of representative democracy, had placed at Italy's helm an unelected prime minister (Mario Monti, one time European commissioner for competition) simply to calm the international markets. 'What?' asked Beppe Grillo, 'is your vote worth, if after voting the 'experts' parachute in a functionary of the very bank which triggered the crisis?' Beppe Grillo represented for many Italians an opportunity to boot out the establishment. They saw in him not so much an anarchist as a representative of Italy's honest citizenry.

Beppe Grillo's *Movimento Cinque Stelle*, *M5S* (Five Star Movement) swept into parliament in February 2013 on a wave of anti-establishment support. However, the parliamentary success was soon followed by some pretty dismal local election results. Meanwhile, many successful candidates took exception to their leader's authoritarian approach to politics amid squabbles, splits and no end of gloating commentary in the Italian press. The Five Star Movement's contradictions were increasingly and publicly, exposed. Voters who had not realised in February just what they were voting for had second thoughts. 'Now they have realised and they will not vote for it again,' ran one headline.

The April 2013 local elections were the first sign that the honeymoon was coming to an end. And how: the *M5S* won just two of more than 500 town councils. Despite its miserable performance in the local elections, at the national level, polls

suggested that it would still obtain between 18–20 per cent. One reason for a dip in support was Beppe Grillo's refusal to support a minority government led by the centre-left PD, thus forcing it to form a coalition with Berlusconi's centre-right *Il Popolo della Libertà* (PDL) (The People of Freedom).

### Letta

Italians went to the polls in February 2013 to determine the 630 members of the Chamber of Deputies and the 315 elective members of the Senate. The centre-left alliance *Italy. Common Good* led by the PD obtained a majority in the Chamber of Deputies (largely thanks to a majority bonus that effectively trebled the number of seats assigned to the winning group), while in the popular vote it narrowly defeated the centre-right alliance of former Prime Minister Berlusconi. Close behind came the Five Star Movement, ahead of the centrist coalition of outgoing Prime Minister Monti. In the Senate there was no clear winner, eventually resulting in a coalition between the parties of the centre-right, centre and centre-left.

It fell to Italy's President Giorgio Napolitano, himself recently re-elected for a second term, to choose Italy's prime minister. His choice was Enrico Letta, a 48-year-old centrist, who agreed to head a broad-based coalition drawn from both the centre-left and the centre-right. Known to be something of a Europhile on the moderate side of the centre-left PD, Mr Letta had started his political career with the centre-right DC party that dominated Italian politics in the post-war era. There were also family connections, as his uncle, Gianni Letta was a close political advisor of the discredited Silvio Berlusconi. It emerged that the prime minister designate had spent two hours with Mr Berlusconi shortly before beginning discussions on the make-up of his government. By Italian standards, the new prime minister – at 48 – was quite young, the third youngest Italian prime minister in Italian history. The grand coalition government over which he ruled was just about everything that the *M5S* was opposed to. Perhaps unsurprisingly, from its appointment the coalition had to live with relatively low approval ratings.

On taking office, Mr Letta acknowledged the 'fragility' of his coalition government. His first official trip was, predictably, to Berlin for talks with German Chancellor Angela Merkel. Immediately afterwards, Mr Letta announced that the rigorous economic policies he

proposed to follow would be accompanied by measures to stimulate growth. He added that only with 'more Europe' would it be possible for the European Union (EU) to fulfil its responsibilities. In a veiled allusion to the *M5S* movement, Mr Letta alerted his listeners to the danger that the European crisis would create anti-European political movements. In the Italian parliament, one of Beppe Grillo's supporters, Vito Crimi, pointed out that in the Letta administration there were 'many monsters from wrecked governments,' and that he was likely to be a 'hostage to vetoes and deals between parties.'

### The economy

In its 2013 Economic Survey, the Paris-based Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) noted that Italy had embarked on a wide-ranging strategy to restore fiscal sustainability and improve long-term growth. Combined with measures at the euro-zone level, these actions had reduced downside risks and the economy, noted the OECD, should emerge from recession during 2013. However, with the public debt-to-GDP ratio nearing 130 per cent and a heavy debt redemption schedule, Italy remained exposed to sudden changes in financial market sentiment. Large and sustained reductions in public debt were therefore the top fiscal priority. The gains from recent structural reforms also needed to be consolidated and further measures to promote growth and improve competitiveness needed to be implemented, to return Italy to healthy growth.

The OECD also noted that sizeable fiscal consolidation had been achieved in 2012. While this entailed short-term output and social costs, these efforts had been rewarded by higher confidence in financial markets and had improved medium-term prospects. The government has rightly aimed to halt the rise in the public debt-to-GDP ratio and put it on a downward path, while also seeking ways to use limited resources to protect the incomes of the most vulnerable. This can be achieved either with a balanced government budget or a small fiscal surplus, accompanied by a combination of growth-enhancing structural reforms and the implementation of the new unemployment insurance scheme. While additional fiscal tightening would have transitory negative effects on output, it would be rewarded by faster debt reduction and thus lower risk of renewed financial-market reactions. Fiscal measures should concentrate on spending restraint and a continuing policy review

process should focus on improving value for money. There is also scope to restructure the tax system to reduce economic distortions, notably through fewer tax expenditures. While the banking system has been overall quite resilient, several banks are experiencing serious difficulties and the financial sector remains exposed to systemic risks. Continued efforts to strengthen capital adequacy and loss provisions are thus essential.

Steps have been taken for the public administration and civil justice systems to support reform, economic development and the needs of civil society more effectively. These too should be followed through and fully implemented to eliminate major impediments in the business environment. The streamlined civil justice system needs to ensure that, where regulatory constraints are necessary, such as to protect employment rights or the environment, the law is enforced resolutely, rapidly and equitably. The anti-corruption law provides improved tools in the fight against corruption and organised crime.

### Risk assessment

Economy	Poor
Politics	Poor
Regional stability	Good

### COUNTRY PROFILE

#### Historical profile

1796–1806 The French, under Emperor Napoléon Bonaparte, occupied Italy. The country was carved up and ruled by Napoléon, his relatives and Pope Pius VII. 1814–15 Following Napoléon's defeat by the Austrians, British, Prussians and Russians, Italy returned to its feudal status under the terms of the Congress of Vienna. Regions of northern Italy were also handed to Austria. 1848 A rise in nationalism and rebellion against Austrian rule began, known locally as the Risorgimento (Revival). A key figure in this process was Giuseppe Garibaldi. 1859–61 A partially unified Italy (Sardina, Piedmont, Genoa and Savoy) was created under the King of Sardina, Vittorio Emanuele II. 1870. Italian nationalists liberated Rome from French rule and proclaimed it the capital of a unified Italy under Vittorio Emanuele II. 1889–90 Italy established colonies in Africa (Somalia and Eritrea) through military conquests. 1901 Italy secured a territorial concession in the Chinese city of Tientsin. 1911–12 Italy gained Tripolitania and Cyrenaica (later Libya) and the

Dodekanesa (Dodecanese) Islands from the Ottoman Empire.

1916–18 Italy eventually fought alongside the Allies in the First World War. Ensuing disorder and economic weakness fostered the rise of Benito Mussolini and the Partito Nazionale Fascista (PNF) (National Fascist Party).

1919 Italy gained Trentino-Südtirol (South Tyrol), the Istrian peninsula and Trieste, which had been parts of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, under the terms of the Treaty of Versailles. Italian nationalists later seized control of the former Austro-Hungarian city of Fiume (now Rijeka), in the face of Yugoslav claims.

1922 After Italian fascists marched on Rome, Mussolini and the PNF were invited to form a government by King Vittorio Emanuele III.

1924–26 Mussolini increased his prime ministerial powers, effectively making his rule a dictatorship.

1929 Three Lateran Treaties granted Roman Catholicism special status in Italy. The Vatican City state, under the rule of the Pope, was created within Rome.

1935–36 Italy invaded Abyssinia (now Ethiopia).

1936 Italy supported General Franco's nationalists in the Spanish Civil War, until they won in 1939.

1940–42 Italy was part of the Axis powers, assisting Nazi Germany's military campaigns in Europe and Africa. It also invaded British Somaliland in East Africa in 1940.

1943 Allied forces invaded southern Italy and its African colonies. Mussolini was removed from government, imprisoned, and Pietro Badoglio was appointed prime minister. After escaping from prison, Mussolini declared the creation of the Repubblica Sociale Italiana (Social Republic of Italy) in German-controlled northern Italy.

1945 The fascist regime collapsed as the allies liberated the whole of Italy. Mussolini was executed by Italian partisans.

1946 In May, Vittorio Emanuele III abdicated from the Italian throne and was temporarily replaced by Umberto II. After a referendum the Italian monarchy was abolished and a republic was declared. Enrico De Nicola was appointed as temporary head of state.

1948 De Nicola was elected the Republic's first president. The constitution, which established a parliament, was promulgated.

1949–82 A succession of short-lived coalitions followed, involving the Democrazia Cristiana (DC) (Christian Democrats) and up to four other major parties, frequently producing several regroupings and new cabinets in a year.

1978 Former prime minister and then president of the DC, Aldo Moro, was assassinated by the Red Brigades.

1983–87 Bettino Craxi, of the Partito Socialista Italiano (PSI) (Italian Socialist Party), headed what was then the longest-running post-war Italian government.

1989 The DC returned to government and Giulio Andreotti became prime minister for the third time.

1992–93 Italy had two prime ministers in two years, Giuliano Amato and Carlo Azeglio Ciampi. Both were forced to resign after political and corruption scandals.

1994 Silvio Berlusconi, of the Forza Italia (FI) (Go Italy!) – a party he largely created and funded, was elected prime minister for nine months. A transitional government was formed led by Lamberto Dina (independent).

1996 The centre-left Ulivo (Olive Tree) coalition won the parliamentary elections and Romano Prodi, was appointed prime minister.

1997 A constitutional reform commission, drawn from both houses of parliament, altered the Italian political system by introducing direct elections for the office of president.

1998 The Democratici di Sinistra's (DS) (Democrats of the Left) Massimo d'Alema succeeded Romano Prodi.

1999 The government fell and d'Alema resigned. He was reinstated by the newly-elected president, Carlo Ciampi. 2000 D'Alema resigned and was replaced by Giuliano Amato, heading a new centre-left 12-party coalition government.

2001 The Casa delle Libertà (House of Freedom) coalition won elections and Silvio Berlusconi became prime minister for a second time. Voters approved a referendum on constitutional changes to give more power to the regions.

2002 The euro currency replaced the lira. A controversial bill, allowing Berlusconi to retain control of his media empire, was passed in parliament.

2003 The Parmalat dairy food-manufacturing giant – one of Italy's blue-chip companies – was declared insolvent when a US\$11 billion-plus accountancy fraud was discovered.

2004 The Constitutional Court threw out the immunity from prosecution law granting Mr Berlusconi and other top state post holders immunity from prosecution and Berlusconi's trial on corruption charges resumed; he was found not guilty.

2005 Romano Prodi became leader of the renamed centre-Left bloc, L'Unione (The Union), formerly Ulivo. Reform of the electoral system was passed: in future all parliamentary seats will be determined by proportional representation and only

parties winning a minimum of 2 per cent of the vote will be allocated seats

2006 Romano Prodi and the coalition L'Unione won national elections. Giorgio Napolitano was elected president by the Electoral College; he was the first former Communist to be elected president of Italy.

2007 Prodi resigned as prime minister, following a defeat in the senate on his foreign policy of enhancing NATO's deployment in Afghanistan. Prodi won a vote of confidence and was reinstated

2008 FI merged with Alleanza Nazionale (AN) (National Alliance) to form Il Popolo della Libertà (PdL) (The People of Freedom) and formed a three-party coalition with Partito Democratico (PD) (Democratic Party) and Lega Nord (LN) (Northern League) and won the national elections with a combined 46.81 per cent of the votes (340 seats out of 630). Silvio Berlusconi became prime minister for a second time. Italy apologised for damage inflicted during its occupation of Libya and agreed to invest US\$5 billion as compensation. The state-owned Alitalia airline filed for bankruptcy.

2009 Prime Minister Berlusconi was stripped of his immunity from prosecution by the Constitutional Court, which rejected legislation that gave immunity to top government officials while they are in office, on the grounds that all Italians must be equal before the law and that the legislation had not been subject to greater scrutiny before being enacted.

2010 Futuro e Libertà (FLI) (Future and Freedom), a new political party, was formed by followers of its founder Gianfranco Fini, who broke away from Berlusconi's PdL-led coalition government.

2011 From January, thousands of migrants and refugees from Africa made the Mediterranean Sea crossing to reach the EU and landed on the Italian island of Lampedusa, overwhelming local resources and immigration procedures. Italy called on the EU for increased funds to deal with the influx. On 19 March, Italy joined in a five-country coalition (with Canada, France, the UK and the US) to impose a no-fly zone over Libya. On 4 April Italy became the third country (after France and Qatar) to recognise the Transitional National Council (TNC) as the legitimate government of Libya. Investors in the Italian economy were losing confidence in its viability as, on 15 July, the government's austerity budget, designed to cut the deficit by €47 billion (US\$65.98 billion) by 2014, was adopted by parliament. However on 28 July, unforfeiting bond markets forced the Italian treasury to pay more for sovereign bonds than previous rates. On 20 September,

Standard & Poor's downgraded Italy's sovereign debt rating from A+ to A, and added an economic outlook for the country of 'negative', saying it feared for the government's ability to cut state spending and reduce the deficit. The government responded by saying the downgrade was 'politically motivated'. Moody's cut Italy's credit rating from Aa2 to A2, with a negative outlook. Italy's sovereign debt crisis came to a head on 10 November following weeks when the government failed to implement agreed austerity measures (on 15 July and 14 September) aimed at saving €124 billion (US\$174.7 billion) in government spending. Italian government bonds were sold at an interest rate of 6.087 per cent (for one year) meaning the government will have to pay an extra €28 billion (US\$38.5 billion) to service the new debt. Prime Minister Berlusconi narrowly won a vote of confidence on 5 November but his support and position were critically undermined. Silvio Berlusconi resigned on 13 November and on 14 November the president appointed Mario Monti, a technocrat, as prime minister. Parliament approved public spending cuts amounting to €33 billion (US\$43 billion) in December, as well as tax rises and measures to counter tax evasion.

2012 Employment reforms were introduced in January to promote a more meritocratic system and reduce youth unemployment. On 14 May, the ratings agency Moody's cut the credit ratings of two of Italy's largest lending banks, Unicredit and Intesa Sanpaolo, from A3 to A2. The ratings of 24 other Italian banks were also cut by up to four points. All the banks were put on negative credit watch, with further downgrading possible. An earthquake of magnitude six struck on 20 May, its epicentre was in the flat plains of the River Po, north of Bologna. The earthquake, and its aftershocks, killed seven people and injured 50 others and destroyed or badly damaged many historic buildings in the small towns around the area. On 26 October, former prime minister Berlusconi was found guilty of tax fraud and sentenced to four years in prison (later reduced to one year due to an amnesty law).

2013 the 24–25 February elections were won by The Italia. Bene Comune (IBC) (Italy. Common Good) alliance lead by the Partito Democratico (PD) (Democratic Party) 25.42 per cent (292 out of 630 seats) and including Sinistra Ecologia Libertà (Left Ecology Freedom) 3.2 per cent (37), Centro Democratico (Democratic Centre) 0.49 per cent (6) and Partito Popolare Sudtirolese (South Tyrolean People's Party) 0.43 per cent (5) won a total of 340 seats; followed by former president Berlusconi's Coalizione del

Centrodestra (Centre-right Coalition) consisting of Il Popolo della Libertà (the People of Freedom) 21.56 per cent (97 seats), the Lega Nord (North League) 4.08 per cent (18), the Fratelli d'Italia (Brothers of Italy) 1.95 per cent (9) with a total of 124 seats; third was Giuseppe Piero 'Beppe' Grillo's Movimento 5 Stelle (Five Star Movement) with 25.55 per cent (108). The only other coalition to win seats was the Con Monti per l'Italia (CMI) (With Monti for Italy) lead by Scelta Civica (Civic Choice) 8.3 per cent (37) and Unione di Centro (Union of the Centre) 1.78 per cent (8) with a total of 45 seats. Eventually a ruling coalition of the centre-left (Italia. Bene Comune), centre (Con Monti per l'Italia) and centre-right (Centre-right Coalition) was formed. Although asked to form a coalition with the IBC, Beppe Grillo had refused. Senate results were IBC 31.63 per cent (113 seats out of 315) (lead by PD 29.32 per cent (105 seats)), CC 30.71 per cent (116) (lead by IPL 22.3 per cent (98)), M5S 23.79 per cent (54), CMI 9.13 per cent (18). Presidential elections on 18–20 April were won by Giorgio Napolitano (738 out of 1007) after he was persuaded to run again. On 1 August Berlusconi lost his appeal to the highest court; in an angry broadcast he said he was the innocent victim of 'an incredible series of accusations and trials that had nothing to do with reality'. The 76-year old is likely to serve some form of house arrest and community service. A move by supporters of Mr Berlusconi to block his disqualification from parliament (after his conviction for fraud) failed on 19 September. Mr Berlusconi withdrew his five ministers on 28 September and the government collapsed. President Napolitano was said to be trying to form another coalition rather than call elections. However, on 29 September Prime Minister Letta called a confidence vote for 2 October, which he won after Mr Berlusconi was forced to back down when several of his ministers said they would support the government. The vote was 235 to 70 in favour of the government. On 3 October a boat laden with migrants from Africa sank off the coast of Lampedusa. Over 300 people are thought to have drowned. On 4 October a cross-party panel of the Senate recommended the expulsion of Mr Berlusconi from the chamber over his conviction for tax fraud. The Italian airline Alitalia was rescued from bankruptcy after the airline's board agreed to a US\$678 million rescue package. The Four of the planned 78 mobile flood barriers designed to protect Venice from flooding were successfully tested on 12 October. Construction of the barriers started 10 years ago and have so far cost some US\$7 billion.

Completion is scheduled for 2016, although this will depend on financing arrangements. On 14 October defence minister Mario Mauro said Italy would triple its presence in the southern Mediterranean. The refugees would be rescued rather than told 'to stay where they are' said Emma Bonino, Italy's foreign minister. On 19 September a court in Milan banned Berlusconi from holding public office for two years, following his conviction for tax fraud; the ban must be approved by parliament before taking effect. On 26 October at a leaders' meeting of the PdL, Mr Berlusconi relaunched Forza Italia after a vote to suspend the PdL. There were a number of notable absentees, including Deputy Prime Minister Angelino Alfano, suggesting party divisions.

### Political structure

#### Constitution

Under the terms of the 1948 constitution, Italy's legislative power is held by a bicameral parliament.

Italy is divided into 20 regions which enjoy a large degree of autonomy. Each region has a regional council elected every five years by universal suffrage.

In 2001, the constitution was amended by the federalist reform bill which increased the decision-making power of the regions. In 2005 proportional representation was introduced to elect both houses of parliament.

#### Form of state

Parliamentary democratic republic

#### The executive

Executive power is held by the prime minister, who is usually the leader of the largest party in the lower house of the parliament, and by a cabinet of ministers chosen by him.

The president, who must be more than 50 years old, holds a seven-year term of office and is elected by an electoral college consisting of both chambers of parliament and regional representatives. From the presidential term due to start in 2006, presidents will be directly elected. The president nominates a number of Supreme Court judges and has the power to dissolve parliament but has no other executive powers.

#### National legislature

Parliament consists of the *Camera dei Deputati* (Chamber of Deputies) and the *Senato della Repubblica* (Senate of the Republic). The chamber of deputies comprises 630 members, of which 475 are directly elected and the remainder are elected by proportional representation. The senate has 315 members, of which 83 are elected by proportional representation and the remainder by direct popular vote. In addition there are several senators-for-life who are former presidents

of the Republic. Members of both houses are elected for five-year terms.

#### Legal system

The legal system is based on the constitution of 1948.

The Constitutional Court, set up in 1955, is the final arbiter of the constitutionality of laws and decrees. It defines the powers of the state and regions and passes judgements in disputes between them. It can also try the president and government ministers. The court consists of 15 judges. Five are appointed by the president, five by parliament and the remainder by the highest law and administrative courts.

The highest court of cassation is divided into 23 appeal court districts, with three other sections. These are then further divided into 159 tribunal districts which, together, are divided into 899 magistracies. There are 90 first degree assize courts and 26 assize courts of appeal.

#### Last elections

24-25 February 2013 (parliamentary); 18 and 20 April 2013 (presidential).

**Results:** Presidential: Giorgio Napolitano, elected president by the Electoral College, with 738 votes (out of 1007).

Parliamentary (Chamber of Deputies): The Italia. Bene Comune (IBC) (Italy. Common Good) alliance led by the Partito Democratico (PD) (Democratic Party) 25.42 per cent (292 out of 630 seats) and including Sinistra Ecologia Libertà (Left Ecology Freedom) 3.2 per cent (37), Centro Democratico (Democratic Centre) 0.49 per cent (6) and Partito Popolare Sudtirolese (South Tyrolean People's Party) 0.43 per cent (5) won a total of 340 seats; followed by former president Berlusconi's Coalizione del Centrodestra (CC) (Centre-right Coalition) consisting of Il Popolo della Libertà (IPL) (the People of Freedom) 21.56 per cent (97 seats), the Lega Nord (North League) 4.08 per cent (18), the Fratelli d'Italia (Brothers of Italy) 1.95 per cent (9) with a total of 124 seats; third was Giuseppe Piero 'Beppe' Grillo's MoVimento 5 Stelle (M5S) (Five Star Movement) with 25.55 per cent (108). The only other coalition to win seats was the Con Monti per l'Italia (CMI) (With Monti for Italy) led by Scelta Civica (Civic Choice) 8.3 per cent (37) and Unione di Centro (Union of the Centre) 1.78 per cent (8) with a total of 45 seats. Eventually a ruling coalition of the centre-left (Italia. Bene Comune), centre (Con Monti per l'Italia) and centre-right (Centre-right Coalition) was formed. Turnout was 75.19 per cent.

Senate: IBC 31.63 per cent (113 seats out of 315) (lead by PD 29.32 per cent (105 seats)); CC 30.71 per cent (116) (lead by IPL 22.3 per cent (98)); M5S 23.79 per cent (54); CMI 9.13 per cent (18). Turnout was 75.11 per cent.

#### Next elections

April 2013 (parliamentary); 2011 (presidential).

#### Political parties

##### Ruling party

Coalition led by the Italia. Bene Comune (IBC) (Italy. Common Good) alliance (including the Partito Democratico (PD) (Democratic Party)), the Coalizione del Centrodestra (Centre-right Coalition) (including the Il Popolo della Libertà (the People of Freedom)) and Con Monti per l'Italia (CMI) (With Monti for Italy) (including Scelta Civica (Civic Choice)) (from Feb 2013).

##### Main opposition party

Opposition in the chamber of deputies and the senate – coalition led by Partito Democratico (PD) (Democratic Party) with Italia dei Valori (IdV) (Italy of Values)

#### Population

60.82 million (2012)

Between 2002–2015, the sections of the population aged between 0–14 and 15–64 are expected to contract by an annual 0.9 and 0.4 per cent respectively. Meanwhile, the population aged over 65 is projected to grow by an annual 1 per cent. At current demographic trends the population aged 65 and above will constitute 21.1 per cent of the total population by 2015.

Approximately 44.4 per cent of the population are resident in northern Italy, 19.2 per cent in central Italy and 36.4 per cent in southern Italy.

**Last census:** October 2001: 57,110,144

**Population density:** 196 inhabitants per square km. Urban population 68 per cent (2010 Unicef).

**Annual growth rate:** 0.3 per cent, 1990–2010 (Unicef).

#### Ethnic make-up

Centuries of colonisation have meant that Italy has many ethnic heritages and groups, including Arberesh (Albanian) (around 100,000, mainly in southern Italy), French (around 100,000, mainly in Valle d'Aosta), German (around 290,000, mainly in Trentino-Alto Adige), Friulian (around 600,000, mainly in Friuli-Venezia Giulia), and Greek (around 4,000, mainly in Calabria). The country has been a destination for immigrants from all over the world. There are an estimated one million foreigners residing in Italy.

#### Religions

97.5 per cent Roman Catholic.

#### Education

Schooling is free of charge and compulsory from age six. Primary schooling lasts until age 11 years, and lower secondary schools from age 11 to 14 years. Only

the first year of upper secondary schooling is compulsory.

Higher secondary schools, from age 14, provide five-year courses in the arts, sciences and teacher training. Specialised secondary schools run four-year courses, and vocational and professional training programmes lasting for three and five years, respectively.

Graduation from higher secondary school automatically gives a student a place at university. Besides universities, a wide range of professional training establishments also provide higher education.

Most of the existing universities were directly established by the state, although some private institutions are recognised. There are 51 state universities and three technical universities.

Public expenditure on education typically amounts to 4.9 per cent of annual gross national income.

**Literacy rate:** 98.5 per cent total; 98.2 per cent female, adult rates (World Bank).

**Compulsory years:** Six to 15

**Enrolment rate:** 101 gross primary enrolment of relevant age group (including repeaters); 95 per cent gross secondary enrolment (World Bank).

**Pupils per teacher:** 11 in primary schools

### Health

The healthcare system is regionally based, providing universal coverage free of charge at the point of service. There are deep regional inequalities in healthcare expenditure and in supply and utilisation of healthcare services.

Healthcare is financed through general taxation collected centrally, various other regional taxes and users' payments, which replaced the previous system of social health insurance contributions. The National Solidarity Fund was developed to transfer funds to the regions unable to raise sufficient resources. The Fund was authorised to spend 10 per cent of the overall regional funding.

### HIV/Aids

**HIV prevalence:** 0.5 per cent aged 15–49 in 2003 (World Bank)

**Life expectancy:** 81 years, 2004 (WHO 2006)

**Fertility rate/Maternal mortality rate:** 1.4 births per woman, 2010 (Unicef); maternal mortality 11 per 100,000 live births (World Bank).

**Birth rate/Death rate:** 10 deaths to nine births per 1,000 people (World Bank)

**Child (under 5 years) mortality rate (per 1,000):** 4 per 1,000 live births (WHO 2012)

**Head of population per physician:** 4.2 physicians per 1,000 people, 2004 (WHO 2006)

### Welfare

Italy has a fully comprehensive social security system with benefits covering unemployment, retirement pensions, disability, family allowances and health services.

The social security system is financed by contributions made by the state, employers and employees, and forms part of the government's overall budget.

The pension system is contribution-based calculated on the basis of the social security contributions paid over the course of working life. The system assures equal benefits for both public and private sector employees. There is increasing government expenditure on old-age pensions and survivorship annuities due to its ageing population.

There have been promising developments in the regulation of family allowances and income maintenance programmes. The Family Allowance fund, replaced by the Family Unit Allowance, differentiates the allowance in relation to the number of members of the family and the make-up of the family unit's income.

### Pensions

The long-awaited pension reform bill was passed in July 2004. Italy was spending 14 per cent of GDP on pensions and the bill is expected to save 0.7 per cent of GDP annually from 2013–30.

The requirements for employees will be that they must pay 40 years of contributions into the fund before receiving benefits at aged 57, or retire later at aged 60 with a minimum 35 years contributions. This reform will be implemented by 2008.

### Main cities

Rome (capital, estimated population 2.4 million in 2012), Milan (1.3 million), Naples (937,501), Turin (854,299), Palermo (633,182), Genoa (575,087), Florence (380,802), Bologna (371,088), Bari (301,521), Venice (261,532).

### Languages spoken

German is spoken in South Tyrol on the Austrian border. Slovene is spoken by a minority in Trieste. French is spoken in the Val d'Aosta, bordering France and Switzerland. Albanian is spoken in some areas of Basilicata, Calabria and Sicily. An increasing number of business people also speak English, replacing French as the second commercial language.

### Official language/s

Italian

### Media

#### Press

There are approximately 125 newspapers, which reach 42.5 per cent of the adult population, and an estimated 10,000 magazines.

Italy's press is highly regionalised and controlled directly or indirectly by either

major media groups, political parties or corporate entities. The Agnelli family (which owns Fiat) controls the Turin-based *La Stampa*, Milan's *Corriere della Sera* and the sports daily *Gazzetta dello Sport*; the multinational, Ferruzzi group owns *Il Messaggero in Rome* and *Italia Oggi*; Fininvest controls the Milan-based *Il Giornale*; Carlo de Benedetti, chairman of Gruppo Editoriale L'Espresso, owns *La Repubblica* and over 12 regional newspapers.

**Dailies:** There are around 150 dailies newspapers, of which 20 are distributed nationally. In Italian, those with the highest circulations include, *Il Corriere della Sera (Evening Courier)* ([www.corriere.it](http://www.corriere.it)), *La Repubblica* ([www.repubblica.it](http://www.repubblica.it)), *La Stampa (The Press)* ([www.lastampa.it](http://www.lastampa.it)) and *Il Messaggero* ([www.ilmessaggero.it](http://www.ilmessaggero.it)). All regions produce their own dailies including *Barisera* ([www.barisera.it](http://www.barisera.it)) in Puglia, *L'Arena* ([www.larena.it](http://www.larena.it)) in Verona, *Gazzetta del Sud* ([www.gazzettadelsud.it](http://www.gazzettadelsud.it)) in Sicily and *In Umbria* ([www.inumbria.it](http://www.inumbria.it)) in Perugia. Free issue newspapers have become popular and many centres have their own editions within a national format ([www.epolis.sm](http://www.epolis.sm)). Italy does not have tabloid newspapers but the sports newspaper *La Gazzetta dello Sport* ([www.gazzetta.it](http://www.gazzetta.it)) has one of the largest circulations.

**Weeklies:** There are over 50 weekly magazines, with an average of 15 million copies produced. In Italian, general interest weeklies and special interest magazines include *Gente (People)*, *Panorama*, *Famiglia Cristiana* ([www.sanpaolo.org/it](http://www.sanpaolo.org/it)), for Roman Catholic views and *Oggi (Today)*, *Panorama* (<http://www.panorama.it>) and *L'Espresso* (<http://espresso.repubblica.it>) for news and current affairs.

**Business:** In Italian, there are several newspapers from Milan, including the respected *Milano Finanza* ([www.milanoфинanza.it](http://www.milanoфинanza.it)), *Il Sole 24 Ore* ([www.ilssole24ore.com](http://www.ilssole24ore.com)), *24 Minuti* ([www.24minuti.ilssole24ore.com](http://www.24minuti.ilssole24ore.com)) and *Affari Italiani* ([www.affaritaliani.it](http://www.affaritaliani.it)), which also offers tabloid news and from Naples *Il Denaro* ([www.denaro.it](http://www.denaro.it)) and in German *Sudtiroler Wirtschaftszeitung* ([www.swz.it](http://www.swz.it)) from South Tyrol. In Italian, weekly magazines include *Il Mondo* ([www.ilmondo.rcs.it](http://www.ilmondo.rcs.it)) concerned with the economy, business and politics and a supplement of *La Repubblica* ([www.repubblica.it](http://www.repubblica.it)), *Affari & Finanza*.

**Periodicals:** There are around 100 monthly magazines published catering for all genres. In recent years 'gossip' magazines such as, in Italian, *Gossip News* ([www.gossipnews.it](http://www.gossipnews.it)) and *Kiss Me* ([www.kissme.it](http://www.kissme.it)), have grown in popularity. Mondadori Media ([www.mondadori.it](http://www.mondadori.it)) publishes a range of general periodicals

on life-style, consumer, cuisine, entertainment and commercial interests including *Grazia*, and *Cucina*, other publications include *Donna Moderna* ([www.donnamoderna.com](http://www.donnamoderna.com)).

#### Broadcasting

The national public broadcaster is Rai (Radiotelevisione Italiana) ([www.rai.it](http://www.rai.it)).

**Radio:** There are numerous radio stations, of which over a dozen form national networks. Rai ([www.rai.it](http://www.rai.it)) has three stations which offer entertainment, culture and news from parliament. National commercial stations include 105 Classic ([www.105classics.net](http://www.105classics.net)), CNR ([www.radiocnr.it](http://www.radiocnr.it)), a news network, Radio Cuore ([www.radiocuore.it](http://www.radiocuore.it)) and Radio Italia ([www.radioitalia.it](http://www.radioitalia.it)) is a community radio station.

**Television:** Rai ([www.rai.it](http://www.rai.it)) has three channels (Rai Uno, Due, Tre) and has a market share of around 50 per cent, with funding derived from public funding (through TV licences, general taxes and donations) and advertising, providing locally produced and imported programmes. The main competitors are Mediaset ([www.mediaset.it](http://www.mediaset.it)), owned by Silvio Berlusconi, the biggest national, commercial network with three channels and La7 ([www.la7.it](http://www.la7.it)).

Analogue transmissions are due to end in 2010, in favour of digital terrestrial transmission. There are many cable TV and Satellite, pay-to-view broadcasting is almost entirely provided by US-based Sky; , ing locally produced and imported programmes.

**National news agency:** ANSA (Agenzia Nazionale Stampa Associata)

**Other news agencies:** AGI (Agenzia Giornalistica Italia) (in Italian): [www.agenziaitalia.it](http://www.agenziaitalia.it)

#### Economy

According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, Italy, with gross domestic product (GDP) at around US\$2.2 trillion in 2011, was ranked eighth in the world and fourth in Europe (but down from seventh in 2008). Italy is a leading industrialised country with an economy that is driven by the manufacture of high-quality goods. Export of these goods is crucial to the health of the economy so that Italy's fortunes have been hard hit by the worldwide recession that cut exports as demand fell in all sectors. From 2009, exports have been particularly hard hit, with the loss of billions of euros to the economy. In 2011, the services sector constituted an estimated 73.4 per cent of GDP, with industry accounting for 24.7 per cent and agriculture 2.0 per cent. Italy's largest companies include businesses in energy, banking and insurance, utilities, telecommunications,

aerospace and defence and manufactured consumer durables.

GDP growth was 1.7 per cent in 2007, but Italy quickly succumbed to recession with a rate of -1.2 per cent in 2008. The Italian government was the first of the G8 countries to instigate a stimulus package, of US\$102 billion in 2008, which included public works, mortgage relief and tax cuts for poorer families, which in turn left it with the world's third-largest debt burden, estimated at over 110 per cent of GDP. However, the recession deepened to -5.5 per cent in 2009 as the global economic crisis worsened. As world trade picked up, GDP growth returned to a positive 1.8 per cent in 2010. Inflation did not spiral out of control during this period, it rose from 2 per cent in 2007 to 3.5 per cent in 2008 as the global prices of energy and food reached record highs, but as domestic spending was cut, so too inflation fell to 0.8 per cent in 2009, rising to 1.6 per cent in 2010. Mezzogiorno, in the south, has much lower per capita income levels and higher unemployment rates than the more industrialised north, despite many years of heavy government subsidies; this severe regional imbalance in Italy's labour market causes on-going problems for the economy. Unemployment was 7.8 per cent in 2009, rising to 8.4 per cent in 2010. Remittances in 2010 were US\$6.8 billion (0.3 per cent of GDP) and were estimated to have risen to US\$7.8 billion in 2011.

The services sector, particularly tourism, is important to overall economic performance; in 2008 tourist numbers fell by 25 per cent as the economic situation in home countries limited discretionary spending, plus the euro remained relatively strong against other currencies, so making holidays costlier. The sector experienced a fall in hotel occupancy of -6 per cent in 2009; in 2010 the industry began to revive as tourists returned.

An austerity budget was passed on in 2011, including cuts to public spending of US\$67 billion. The measure was planned to reduce the national deficit, which had grown to 115 per cent of GDP in 2010. In September 2011, Standard & Poor's downgraded Italy's sovereign debt rating from A+ to A, and added an economic outlook for the country of 'negative', saying it feared for the government's ability to cut state spending and reduce the deficit. The government responded by saying the downgrade was 'politically motivated'. Italy's sovereign debt crisis came to a head in the following weeks when the government failed to implement agreed austerity measures (due on 15 July and 14 September) aimed at saving €124 billion (US\$174.7 billion) in government

spending. Italian government bonds were sold at an interest rate of 6.087 per cent (for one year). Financial markets were worried at Italy's public debt, of €1.9 trillion (US\$2.6 trillion), for which €173.3 billion (US\$238 billion) in short- and long-term debt was coming to maturity in 2011; between 2011–14 €656.4 billion (US\$901.8 billion) will mature. As of 10 November 2011, Italy will have to pay an extra €28 billion (US\$38.5 billion) over three years to service the newly rated debt. Silvio Berlusconi resigned on 13 November and on 14 November the president appointed Mario Monti, a technocrat, as prime minister. On 19 December 2011, Mario Monti's €30 billion (US\$39.7 billion) austerity budget was presented to parliament and gained approval. The economic package is intended to balance the budget by 2013. Value added tax (VAT) rose from 20 per cent to 21 per cent in September 2011 and will increase to 23 per cent in July 2013.

On 14 May 2012, the ratings agency Moody's cut the credit ratings of two of Italy's largest lending banks, Unicredit and Intesa Sanpaolo, from A3 to A2. The ratings of 24 other Italian banks were also cut by up to four points. All the banks were put on negative credit watch, with further downgrading possible.

#### External trade

As a member of the European Union (EU), Italy operates within a community-wide free trade area, with tariffs set across the whole community. Internationally, the EU has free trade agreements with a number of nations and trading blocs worldwide. Exports provide over 50 per cent of GDP, with manufactured goods representing around 97 per cent, despite lacking most raw materials and energy needed to sustain the trade; nevertheless it is renowned for its luxury goods and quality manufactures. Italy is the world's second largest exporter of wine and Europe's premier exporter of rice, fruit and vegetables.

#### Imports

Main imports are capital goods, consumer products, chemicals, transport equipment, energy products, minerals and non-ferrous metals, textiles and clothing, food, wine, tobacco and raw materials.

**Main sources:** Germany (14.5 per cent total in 2012), France (8.2 per cent), China (6.5 per cent).

#### Exports

Main exports are engineered and electrical products, textiles and fashion clothing, precision machinery, armaments, vehicles and transport equipment, pharmaceuticals and chemicals; food, beverages and tobacco; minerals, plastics and non-ferrous metals.

**Main destinations:** Germany (12.4 per cent total in 2012), France (11 per cent), US (6.8 per cent).

### Re-exports

Re-fined oil and petroleum products

### Agriculture

Italian farming is characterised by substantial regional differences. Farms in the north are closer to their counterparts in north European countries – in terms of technology, culture and economy – than Italian farmers in the south. Italy's programme for developing the south of the country includes drainage and irrigation schemes, and building up co-operatives and integrated agribusiness ventures to improve trading opportunities.

The EU's Fundamental reform to the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) was introduced in Italy in 2005. The subsidies paid on farm output, which tended to benefit large farms and encourage over-production, were replaced by single farm payments not conditional on production. Only 20 per cent of Italy is fertile arable land and farms are mostly small-scale. Regions with the most labour intensive farms are Sicily and Apulia. Capital intensive farms are most common in the northern province of Emilia Romagna, but the overall proportion of agricultural employment is the same in the north and south. In mountain areas, which stretch throughout the peninsula and on the islands, agricultural activity concentrates on forestry and livestock. The climate is ideal for vineyards and Italy vies with France as one of the world's biggest wine producers. The plains of the north and of Apulia, the heel of Italy, are also important areas for wheat, olives and fruit. Half of total agricultural income is generated in the Po valley and the plains in the north. The area produces the entire rice crop, cereals such as wheat and corn, fodder and livestock. In central Italy, wine-making and wheat-growing are the main activities. Most citrus fruit and olives are grown in the south, where vegetables and cereals are also grown.

The fishing industry has a turnover of around US\$4 billion, but it remains a neglected sector of the economy. Sicily and the Adriatic coast produce 76.4 per cent of the country's fish. The most important fish commercially are sardines and anchovies.

Forest and wooded land account for less than 40 per cent of land area. Sixty per cent of the forest is available for wood supply. Broadleaved species account for 66 per cent of the growing stock, the main species being beech, deciduous and evergreen oaks, poplars and chestnut. Common coniferous species include pine, Norway spruce and European larch.

Italy is one of the major consumers, producers and traders of forest products in the EU. It accounts for nearly ten per cent of EU total paper and wood-based panel production.

### Industry and manufacturing

The industrial sector contributes approximately 32 per cent to GDP and employs 33 per cent of the labour force. Subdivided by sector, manufacturing contributes approximately 26 per cent to annual GDP, with construction accounting for a further 6 per cent.

Problems in the sector include growing competition in traditional products from developing countries, and the small share of the export market taken by value added high technology products. Efforts to attract industrial investment to the depressed southern region have met with only partial success, despite large subsidies.

### Tourism

Italy has one of the world's largest collections included on Unesco's World Heritage List, containing a wealth of ancient, classical, medieval and Renaissance art, artefacts and architecture. It is a destination for pilgrims as the centre to a major religion and home to the origins of many institutions of the Catholic Church. The global economic crisis, which began in 2008, impacted on the tourist sector as growth fell from 0.9 per cent in 2007 to -7.7 per cent in 2008, and -8.2 per cent in 2009. It rebounded with a modest 0.5 per cent growth rate in 2010, as tourism improved throughout Europe. The forecast for 2011 was 3.0 per cent, but this figure was given before the Italian economic crisis struck in November and had followed months of uncertainty and a lower than expected GDP growth. Tourism is a major component of GDP; in 2008 tourism receipts were a high of US\$46.23 billion, but this fell to US\$40.74 in 2009 and only increased marginally to US\$40.853 billion in 2010. Around 1 per cent of employment is related to tourism with the impact of the recession swift and heavy with negative growth in employment of -5.7 per cent in 2008, which only returned to positive growth in 2011.

In 2009, the regions of Venice and Emilia-Romagna were the top destinations for visitors staying overnight. These destinations include the established holiday regions on the Adriatic Sea of Rimini and Pesaro, favoured by Italians and foreign visitors alike. Most visitors are from other European countries, followed by North America.

### Mining

The mining sector accounts for only 0.5 per cent of GDP and employs a similar percentage of the workforce. Italy has

relatively poor mineral resources, although large quantities of iron ore and pyrites, mercury, lead, zinc, bauxite, aluminium, sulphur, gravel, alabaster and marble exist.

Sardinia (Cagliari, Sassari and Iglesias) is the main mining area and holds the only large sulphur deposit in Europe, but mining it is not economically viable. Bauxite is mined mainly in Abruzzi, Campania and Apulia, though output has dropped due to falling demand from the aluminium industry. Output of lead, zinc and particularly copper have all increased. Quarrying activity is strong, with marble and gravel much in demand for the construction and road building industries.

Italy relies heavily on energy imports although there is a plan under way to develop indigenous hydrocarbon resources, which are scattered along its peninsula, offshore, and on Sicily.

### Hydrocarbons

Proven oil reserves were 1.4 billion barrels in 2011 with production at 110,000 barrels per day (bpd). Italy consumes 142,000bpd in 2011.

Italian refining capacity was 2.3 million bpd in 2011. The most important oil reserves are in Val d'Agri (Potenza) southern Italy and Villafortuna-Trecate (Novara) northern Italy. The Italian multinational energy company ENI let a contract in 2009 to purchase two of the world's largest refinery reactors for its refinery in Sannazzaro (Sicily), which will increase production of middle distillates. Delivery is planned for 2011 and production to begin in 2012.

Proven natural gas reserves were 100 billion cubic metres (cum) in 2011, with production at 10 billion cum, a fall of -5.9 per cent on the 2010 figure. Natural gas use has increased significantly from the 1990s and accounts for 40 per cent of the country's total energy consumption. ENI owns Snam Rete Gas which operates a major gas supply network in Italy and has the country's only re-gasification of liquefied natural gas operation.

A call for tenders for the Italian section of the Trans-Adriatic Pipeline (TAP) was issued in May 2011. Existing international pipelines deliver gas from Norway, The Netherlands, Algeria and Russia. In February 2012, the multinational, South Stream Transport group, announced the expected construction of the South Stream pipeline, to transport Russian natural gas to Western and Central Europe (and bypassing Ukraine) would begin in December 2012.

Most domestic coal production is used in electricity generation; coal accounts for 8 per cent of total domestic energy consumption.

## Energy

Total installed electricity generating capacity is 77.3GW, producing around 292 billion kilowatt hours (kWh). Natural gas accounts for around 60 per cent of electricity generation.

Enel, the former state-owned energy monopoly, is the largest power company in Italy, producing over 50 per cent of domestic electricity needs. It produces and sells electricity throughout Italy and operates an international power grid trading energy Italy-France and Italy-Slovenia. Enel began a programme of converting its huge oil-fired power plant in Civitavecchia to coal, and to increase the role of coal in Italy's energy mix from 14 per cent in 2008 to 50 per cent by 2013. Italy had four nuclear power stations but they are not currently in operation nor expected to be reopened.

## Financial markets

### Stock exchange

Borsa Italiana (Italian Stock Exchange)

### Banking and insurance

Scandal hit the Central Bank in July 2005 when the governor, Antonio Fazio, refused to allow a cross-border banking takeover and was subsequently placed under investigation in two criminal inquiries. He refused to resign for several months, receiving strong support from one of Italy's governing parties, the Lega Nord, and the Catholic Church, but was eventually replaced by Mario Draghi in December. Unlike Mr Fazio, who held an open-ended mandate, Mr Draghi will serve a six-year term, renewable once.

### Central bank

Banca d'Italia; European Central Bank (ECB).

### Time

GMT plus one hour (daylight saving, late March to late October, GMT plus two hours)

## Geography

Italy consists of a peninsula stretching from southern Europe into the Mediterranean and includes a number of adjacent islands, including Sicily in the south-west and Sardinia in the west. The country stretches 1,200km from north to south and has 7,456km of coastline.

The distinctive boot-shaped peninsula is dominated by two extensive mountain ranges, accounting for about 75 per cent of the land area. The Alps form a natural barrier separating Italy from Slovenia in the north-east, Austria and Switzerland in the north and France in the north-west. The Apennines form the backbone of the peninsula.

Italy experiences frequent minor earthquakes, especially in the south, and its active volcanoes include Vesuvius in the

Naples district, Etna in Sicily and Stromboli in the Aeolian Islands.

Two autonomous countries lie within Italy's frontiers, the Vatican City in Rome, home of the Holy See, and the tiny republic of San Marino in the north-east.

### Hemisphere

Northern

### Climate

While Italy lies in a temperate zone, the climates of the north and south vary. Summers are uniformly hot, although summers in the south can be extremely hot and dry. In the winter, the south is generally mild, while the north can be extremely cold – particularly near the Alps and Po Valley. Temperatures range from about 4–30 degrees Celsius.

### Dress codes

Particular attention is paid to dress, although dress codes are not rigid. Most businessmen wear suits and ties during business hours.

### Entry requirements

#### Passports

Required by most; passports must be valid for three months from arrival. Nationals of countries which are signatories of the Schengen Accords, which includes most EU/EEA member states, San Marino and Croatia, may visit on national IDs.

#### Visa

No visa requirements for citizens of most of Europe, the Americas, Australasia and some Asian countries, visiting for up to 90 days. For a full list, and further information for those citizens not included on the list of visa-free travel, visit [www.ambwashingtondc.esteri.it](http://www.ambwashingtondc.esteri.it) and see consular services. A Schengen visa application (offered in several languages) can be downloaded from <http://europa.eu/abc/travel/> see 'documents you will need'.

Business travel is also allowed for those enjoying visa-free travel. Those who do not have visa-free arrangements must provide a letter from their employer guaranteeing travel expenses, including full itinerary and purpose of the trip. Letters of invitation from all Italian companies to be visited, and a current (not over 90 days) *Visura Camerale* issued by the Italian Chamber of Commerce should be attached; a return/onward ticket must be produced before collection of the passport and visa from the issuing consulate; which may request any additional documents at its discretion.

Within eight days of arrival in Italy the visa traveller must appear before local police authorities to receive a Residency Permit and will also need to show proof of health insurance.

### Currency advice/regulations

Import and export of local and foreign currency up to eur12,000 (or foreign equivalent) is permitted. Imports and export of amounts greater than this must be declared within 48 hours of arrival or departure.

Travellers cheques are widely accepted.

### Customs

Personal items are duty-free. There are no duties levied on alcohol and tobacco between EU member states, providing amounts imported are for personal consumption.

### Health (for visitors)

Nationals of the European Economic Area (EEA) countries and Switzerland can access reduced cost and sometimes free medical treatment using a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) while visiting the EEA. Exceptions include nationals of the 10 countries, which joined the EU in 2004 whose EHIC is not valid in Switzerland. Applications for the EHIC should be made before travelling.

### Mandatory precautions

None.

### Advisable precautions

No special immunisations are needed. Pharmacists are usually open from 0830 to 1300 and 1600 to 2000.

### Hotels

Classified into five star categories. Rates are fixed by the Provincial Tourist Board, and vary according to class, season, services available and locality. A service charge of 15–18 per cent is added to bills, but additional tips are also expected for individual services. Restaurants expect 15 per cent on top of the bill.

### Credit cards

International credit cards are widely accepted.

### Public holidays (national)

#### Fixed dates

1 Jan (New Year's Day), 6 Jan (Epiphany), 25 April (Liberation Day), 1 May (Labour Day), 2 Jun (National Day), 15 Aug (Assumption Day), 1 Nov (All Saints' Day), 8 Dec (Immaculate Conception), 25–26 Dec (Christmas).

#### Variable dates

Easter Monday

### Working hours

Business travellers would do best to avoid August when Italians desert the stifling heat of the big cities for the beaches and mountains. The mass exodus usually begins in mid-July and lasts at least until after the Ferragosto festival (August 15). Most factories, government offices, shops and restaurants close for all of August or are run by minimal staff.

The afternoon siesta is still very much part of the Italian way of life in Rome and the south. In northern Italy, there is a trend towards standard European business hours of 0900 to 1700, at least in offices.

### Banking

Mon–Fri: 0830–1300; 1500–1600.

Banks in tourist areas may not close for lunch.

### Business

Northern Italy: 0930–1300 and 1400–1800.

Central and southern Italy: 0830–1245 and 1630–2000.

### Government

Post offices: Mon–Fri: 0830–1345 and Sat: 0830–1200; central city post offices stay open until 2100.

Government offices: Mon–Sat: 0830–1345.

### Shops

Mon–Sat: 0830–1230, 1500–1800; Sat: 0900–1230.

### Telecommunications

#### Mobile/cell phones

There are 3G, 900/1800 GSM services throughout the country.

#### Electricity supply

220V AC, 50Hz

### Social customs/useful tips

Italians always shake hands on meeting and leaving. Exchanging business cards is also normal practice as it helps to reinforce the informal network of personal contacts which permeates Italian business. Businessmen prefer that written communication, either by e-mail, facsimile or letter, be sent before a telephone discussion. Personal titles are considered important, although often more prestigious than professionally accurate. Small luxury goods are frequently exchanged as gifts in business. Smoking is still fashionable, with fewer restrictions than in many other Western countries.

Italians are required to carry identification on them at all times and foreigners are recommended to do likewise.

### Security

Handbag snatching and pickpocketing are widespread, particularly in popular tourist spots in Rome and Naples. It is advisable not to wear conspicuous jewellery or carry personal valuables. In general the level of violent crime is low, but drug-related crime is on the increase in Milan, Rome and Naples. With this in mind, visitors to Rome are advised to avoid the streets around the central railway station at night.

### Getting there

#### Air

**National airline:** Alitalia

**International airport/s:** Leonardo da Vinci (Fiumicino) Rome (FCO) 26km south-west of Rome. There is a direct rail link to the central railway station (duration 35 minutes), and express buses into Rome. Licensed, metered taxis are also available to the city.

Milan Malpensa (MXP) 45km north-west of Milan. Both airport facilities include duty-free shops, bar, restaurant, car hire, bank, *bureau de change* and business centre.

**Other airport/s:** Pisa (PSA), 2km from city, (an hour by train from Florence); Turin International (TRN), 16km north-west of city; Venice Marco Polo (VCE), 13km north-west of city; Bologna G Marconi (BLQ); Milan Linate (LIN); Naples Capodichino (NAP); Genoa Cristoforo Colombo (GOA); Palermo (PMO).

**Airport tax:** None

#### Surface

Italy is included in the Pan-European Corridor 5 scheme. The project has some 3,270km of railways, linking Kiev in the Ukraine with western Europe via Italy, and 2,850 of new and upgraded roads.

**Road:** Italy can be entered by road from France, Switzerland, Austria and Slovenia. However, several passes are closed during winter. In addition to the Riviera coastal motorway, access from France and Switzerland is maintained via the St Bernard, Mont Blanc and Fréjus tunnels.

**Rail:** There are daily services, run by Ferrovie dello Stato (FS) (Italian State Railways) that run from France, Switzerland and Austria, which are linked to the European rail network.

The high-speed Lyon-Turin Ferroviaria rail link, consisting of two linked tunnel sections, which are due to join the north-south, east-west transport network hub in Lyon, is expected to be completed by 2012.

**Water:** There are regular ferry service connections to Greece, Albania, North Africa, Croatia and France.

**Main port/s:** Genoa, Trieste, Augusta, Taranto, Leghorn, Savona, Ancona, Bari, Brindisi, Civitavecchia, Venice, La Spezia, Naples, Palermo (Sicily), and Cagliari and Porto Torres (Sardinia).

### Getting about

#### National transport

**Air:** Alitalia and Aero Trasporti Italiani (ATI) operate services connecting Rome to most major towns. Alisarda operates services connecting Rome, Milan and Turin with Sardinia.

**Road:** There is a road network of over 300,000km, of which 6,000km are motorways (*autostrade*) with tolls, connecting most cities.

**Buses:** Extensive bus services, operated by several companies, link all major towns.

**Rail:** Trenitalia operates an extensive network in all regions. Express trains, which provide buffet carriages, have seats to be booked in advance. Larger railway stations provide left luggage, banks, ATMs and refreshment facilities.

**Water:** Ferryboat and hydrofoil services linking the mainland with Sicily, Sardinia and the smaller islands are operated by several lines including the State Railways.

#### City transport

**Taxis:** Available in all towns and tourist resorts, usually in ranks at railway stations, or can be called by phone. Fares vary considerably, and unmetered cabs should be avoided. Drivers round up their fares; gratuities are not necessary.

**Buses, trams & metro:** All major cities have bus services with one standard fare. Day and monthly tickets are available. Bus tickets can also be bought in packs of five and then fed into a machine upon boarding.

There are metros in Rome and Milan with standard single fares as for buses. In Milan tickets last for 70 minutes and can be used on both metro lines and all bus routes. A daily or monthly ticket usable for all Rome services is available. The metro journey from Malpensa international airport, Milan, to the city centre takes around 30 minutes.

Tram services are available in Milan, Naples and Turin.

#### Car hire

Self-drive cars are available; the daily rate depends on the engine size, plus an additional charge per kilometre. Special weekly tariffs are available. VAT is charged. Official translation of driving licence required. Driving is on the right. Maximum speed is 50kph in towns, 90/110kph on country roads and 130kph on motorways. There are legal obligations for wearing seat belts while driving and warning waistcoats (fluorescent jackets) when leaving a vehicle during a breakdown or emergency.

Road signs are international.

## BUSINESS DIRECTORY

The addresses listed below are a selection only. While World of Information makes every endeavour to check these addresses, we cannot guarantee that changes have not been made, especially to telephone numbers and area codes. We would welcome any corrections.

#### Telephone area codes

The international direct dialling code (IDD) for Italy is +39, followed by area code, including the first zero:

Bologna	051	Pisa	050
Capri	081	Rome	06
Florence	055	Trieste	040
Genoa	010	Turin	011

Milan 02 Venice 041  
Naples 081 Verona 045

### Useful telephone numbers

Police, fire and ambulance: 113

### Chambers of Commerce

American Chamber of Commerce in Italy,  
1 Via Cantù, 20123 Milan (tel:  
869-0661; fax: 805-7737; email:  
amcham@amcham.it).

Bergamo Camera di Commercio, 16  
Largo Belotti, 24121 Bergamo (tel:  
422-5111; fax: 226-023; email:  
info@bg.camcom.it).

Bologna Camera di Commercio, Palazzo  
Mercanzia, 4 Piazza Mercanzia, 40125  
Bologna (tel: 609-3111; fax: 609-3451;  
email: segreteria.generale@bo.camcom.it).

Brescia Camera di Commercio, 3 Via  
Orzinuovi, 25125 Brescia (tel: 351-41;  
fax: 351-4222; email:  
brescia@bs.camcom.it).

British Chamber of Commerce for Italy,  
12 Via Dante, 20121 Milan (tel:  
877-798; fax: 8646-1885; email:  
bcc@britchamitaly.com).

Ferrara Camera di Commercio, 11 Via  
Borgoleoni, 44100 Ferrara (tel: 783-711;  
fax: 240-204; email:  
cciaa.ferrara@fe.camcom.it).

Florence Camera di Commercio, 3 Piazza  
dei Giudici, 50122 Florence (tel: 2795-1;  
fax: 2795-259; email:  
info@fi.camcom.it).

Genoa Camera di Commercio, 4 Via  
Garibaldi, 16124 Genoa (tel: 270-41;  
fax: 270-4300; email: cam-  
era.genova@ge.camcom.it).

Mantua Camera di Commercio, 28 Via  
Pietro Fortunato Calvi, 46100 Mantua  
(tel: 234-1; fax: 234-234; email:  
mantova@mn.camcom.it).

Milan Camera di Commercio, 9b Via  
Meravigli, 20123 Milan (tel: 8515-1; fax:  
8515-4232; email:  
infohighway@mi.camcom.it).

Naples Camera di Commercio, 2 Via S  
Aspreno, 80133 Naples (tel: 760-7111;  
fax: 552-6940; email: segreteria.generale@na.camcom.it)

Padua Camera di Commercio, 34 Via E  
Filiberto, 35122 Padua (tel: 820-8111;  
fax: 820-8290; email:  
info@pd.camcom.it).

Parma Camera di Commercio, 2 Via  
Verde, 43100 Parma (tel: 210-11; fax:  
282-168; email: segreteria.generale@pr.camcom.it).

Pavia Camera di Commercio, 27 Via  
Mentana, 27199 Pavia (tel: 393-1; fax:  
304-559; email: pavia@pv.camcom.it).

Rome Camera di Commercio, 147 Via  
De' Burrò, 00186 Rome (tel: 520-2630;  
fax: 520-82617; email:  
info@rm.camcom.it).

Siena Camera di Commercio, 30 Piazza  
Matteotti, 53100 Siena (tel: 202-511;  
fax: 270-981; email:  
cciaa@si.camcom.it).

Trieste Camera di Commercio, 14 Pi-  
azza della Borsa, 34121 Trieste (tel:  
670-1111; fax: 670-1321; email:  
info@ts.camcom.it).

Turin Camera di Commercio, 24 Via San  
Francesco da Paola, 10123 Turin (tel:  
571-6405; fax: 571-6404; email:  
urp@to.camcom.it).

Unione Italiana delle Camere di  
Commercio, Industria, Artigianato e  
Agricoltura, 21 Piazza Sallustio, 00187  
Rome (tel: 470-41; fax: 470-4240;  
email: segreteria.generale@unioncamere.it).

Venice Camera di Commercio, 2032 Via  
XXII Marzo, San Marco, 30124 Venice  
(tel: 786-111; fax: 786-330; email:  
segreteria.generale@ve.camcom.it).

Verona Camera di Commercio, 96 Corso  
Porta Nuova, 37122 Verona (tel:  
808-5011; fax: 594-648; email:  
cciaavr@vr.camcom.it).

### Banking

Banca Commerciale Italiana, Via del  
Corso, 226 C.A.P. 00186 Rome (tel:  
67-121; fax: 6712-4925).

Banca di Napoli, Via Toledo 177-188,  
80132 Naples (tel: 791-1111).

Banca Nazionale del Lavoro, Via Vittorio  
Veneto 119, 00187 Rome (tel: 47-021;  
fax: 4702-6263).

Banca Nazionale dell'Agricoltura SPA, Via  
Salaria 231, 00199 Rome (tel: 85-881;  
fax: 8588-3396).

Banca Popolare Commercio E Industria  
Scarl, Via Casifina 1790, 00132 Rome  
(tel: 207-1712; fax: 207-2676).

Banca di Roma, Via del Corso 320,  
00186 Rome (tel: 67-071; fax:  
6707-3783).

Cassa di Risparmio delle Provincie  
Lombarde, Piazza Barberini 21, 00167  
Rome (tel: 46-781; fax 486-884).

Cassa di Risparmio di Roma, 320 Via del  
Corso, 00186 Rome (tel: 67-071; fax:  
6707-3783).

Cassa di Risparmio di Torino, 31 Via XX  
Settembre, 10121 Torino (tel: 57-661;  
fax: 638-203).

Credito Italiano, 00144 Piazzale  
dell'Industria 46 (tel: 54-631; fax:  
5423-7006).

European Investment Bank, via Saroagna  
36, 100187 Rome (tel: 47-191; fax:  
487-3438).

Istituto Centrale Delle Banche Di Credito  
Cooperativo, Via Torino 146, 00184  
Rome (tel: 47-161; fax: 4716-5583).

Istituto Di Credito Delle Casse Di  
Riggarmio Italiane, Via San Basilo 15,  
00187 Rome (tel: 47-151).

Mediocredito Centrale, Via Piemonte 51,  
00187 Rome (tel: 47-911; fax:  
479-1626).

Monte dei Paschi di Siena, Piazza  
Salimbeni, Siena (tel: 294-111).

Nuovo Banco Ambrosiano, Piazza Paolo  
Ferrari 10, 20121 Milan (tel: 85-941).

UBAE Arab Italian Bak SpA, Piazza  
Venezia 11, 00187 Rome (tel: 67-5921;  
fax: 678-4606).

### Central bank

Banca d'Italia, Via Nazionale 91, 00184  
Rome (tel: 47-921; fax: 479-22983;  
internet: www.bancaditalia.it).

European Central Bank (ECB),  
Kaiserstrasse 29, D-60311 Frankfurt am  
Main, Germany (tel: (+49-69) 13-440;  
fax: (+49-69) 1344-6000; email:  
info@ecb.int).

### Stock exchange

Borsa Italiana (Italian Stock Exchange),  
www.borsaitaliana.it

### Travel information

Alitalia (Linee Aeree Italiane), Centro  
Direzionale, Viale Alassandro Marchetti,  
111, Rome 100148 (tel: 709-2780; fax:  
709-3065).

Leonardo da Vinci (Fiumicino) Airport, Via  
dell'Aeroporto di Fiumicino 320, PO Box  
68, 00050, Fiumicino (tel: 5951; fax:  
595-5707; email: info@adr.it; internet:  
www.adr.it).

Milan Malpensa Airport, 21010 Varese  
(tel: 7485-2200; fax: 7485-4010; email:  
communication@sea-aeroportimilano.it;  
internet: www.sea-aeroportimilano.it/eng).

Trenitalia, 1 Piazza della Croce Rossa,  
Rome (tel: 892-021; internet:  
www.trenitalia.com).

### Ministry of tourism

Ministry of Industry and Tourism, Via  
Molise 2, 00187 Rome (tel: 47-051; fax:  
4705-2215).

### National tourist organisation offices

Ente Nazionale Italiano per il Turismo  
(ENIT), 2/6Via Marghera, 00185 Rome  
(tel: 49-711; fax: 446-3379; email:  
sedecentrale@cert.ent.it; internet:  
www.enit.it).

### Ministries

Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, Via XX  
Settembre 20, 00187 Rome (tel: 46-651;  
fax: 592-314).

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Ministry of Defence, Via XX Settembre 8, 00187 Rome (tel: 488-2126; fax: 474-7775).

Ministry of Education, Viale Trastevere 76/A, 00153 Rome (tel: 58-491; fax: 580-3381).

Ministry of Employment and Social Welfare, Via Flavia 6, 00187 Rome (tel: 46-831; fax: 4788-7174).

Ministry of the Environment, Piazza Venezia 11, 00187 Rome (tel: 70-361; fax: 678-3844).

Ministry of Equal Opportunities, c/o Presidenza del Consiglio dei Ministri, Palazzo Chigi, 00187 Rome (tel: 67-791; fax: 678-3998).

Ministry of Finance, Viale Europa 242, 00144 Rome (tel: 59-971; fax: 501-5714).

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Piazzale della Farnesina, 00194 Rome (tel: 36-911; fax: 323-6258).

Ministry of Foreign Trade, Viale America 341, 00144 Rome (tel: 59-931; fax: 5964-7504).

Ministry of Health, Viale dell'Industria 20, 00144 Rome (tel: 59-941; fax: 5964-7649).

Ministry of Industry and Tourism, Via Molise 2, 00187 Rome (tel: 47-051; fax: 4705-2215).

Ministry of the Interior, Piazzale del Viminale, 00184 Rome (tel: 6451; fax: 482-5792).

Ministry of Justice, Via Arenula 71, 00186 Rome (tel: 68-851; fax: 5227-8550).

Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications, Viale America 201, 00144 Rome (tel: 59-581; fax: 594-274).

Ministry of Public Administration, Palazzo Vidoni, Corso Vittorio Emanuele 116, 00186 Rome (tel: 680-031).

Ministry of Public Works, Piazza Porta Pia 1, 00198 Rome (tel: 44-121; fax: 4426-7275).

Ministry of Transport, Piazza della Croce Rossa 1, 00161 Rome (tel: 84-901; fax: 4424-1539).

Ministry of the Treasury and Budget, Via XX Settembre 97, 00187 Rome (tel: 47-611; fax: 488-2146).

Ministry for University, Scientific and Technological Research, Piazzale Kennedy 20, 00144 Rome (tel: 59-911; fax: 591-5493).

Office of the President, Palazzo del Quirinale, 00187 Rome (tel: 4699).

Prime Minister's Office, Palazzo Chigi, Piazza Colonna 370, 00187 Rome (tel: 67-791; fax: 678-3998).

### Other useful addresses

Agenzia Nazionale Stampa Associata (news agency), Via della Dataria 94, 00187 Rome (tel: 678-6161).

Borsa Valori di Milano, Piazza Degli Affari, 20100 Milan (tel: 8534).

British Embassy, Via XX Settembre 80/A, 00187 Rome (tel: 482-5551, 482-5441; fax: 487-3324).

Commissione Nazionale per le Società e la Borsa (Commission for Companies and the Stock Exchange), Milan (tel: 877-841).

Confederazione Generale dell'Industria Italiana (General Confederation of Italian Industry), Viale dell'Astronomia 30, 00144 Rome (tel: 59-031).

Confederazione Generale Italiana del Commercio (General Confederation of Italian Commerce), Piazza G.C. Belli 2, Rome (tel: 588-783, 580-192).

Ente Nazionale Idrocarburi (ENI), Piazzale E. Mattei, 00144 Rome (tel: 59-001).

Ente Partecipazioni e Finanziamento Industria Manifatturiera (EFIM), Via XXIV Maggio 43-45, 00187 Rome (tel: 47-101).

Istituto Nazionale di Statistica (ISTAT) (national statistics office), Via Cesare Balbo

16, 00100 Rome (tel: 46-731; fax: 4673-4177).

Istituto per la Ricostruzione Industriale (IRI) Via Vittorio Veneto 85, 00187 Rome (tel: 47-271).

Istituto Nazionale per il Commercio Estero (Italian government agency for promotion of foreign trade), 21 Via Liszt, 00100 Rome (tel: 59-921).

Italian Embassy (US), 3000 Whitehaven Street, NW, Washington DC 20008 (tel: (+1-202) 612-4400; fax: (+1-202) 518-2154; email: stampa@itwash.org).

US Embassy, Via Vittorio Veneto 119A, 00187 Rome (tel: 46-741; fax: 4674-2356).

**National news agency:** ANSA (Agenzia Nazionale Stampa Associata)

Via della Dataria 94, 00187 Rome (tel: 677-41; fax: 677-4638; internet: [www.ansa.it](http://www.ansa.it)).

**Other news agencies:** AGI (Agenzia Giornalistica Italia) (in Italian): [www.agenziaitalia.it](http://www.agenziaitalia.it)

### Internet sites

City of Venice Gateway: [www.venetia.it](http://www.venetia.it)

City of Florence information: [www.aboutflorence.com](http://www.aboutflorence.com)

Gateway site of servers listed by city (launches into Italian language sites): [www.cilea.it/WWW-map](http://www.cilea.it/WWW-map)

Italian Central Bank: [www.bancaditalia.it](http://www.bancaditalia.it)

Italian Statistics: [www.istat.it](http://www.istat.it)

Italian Embassy in the US (includes economic and trade data) [www.italyemb.org](http://www.italyemb.org)

Ministry of Foreign Affairs: [www.esteri.it/eng/index/htm](http://www.esteri.it/eng/index/htm)

The Uffizi Museum: [www.uffizi.firenze.it](http://www.uffizi.firenze.it)

Yellow pages Online: [www.paginegialle.it](http://www.paginegialle.it)