

Labour force survey in Italy: features and indicators

Federica Pintaldi

**Improving the Availability and Quality of Individual-level
Data on Women and Youth in Living Standards
Measurement Study (LSMS) surveys Project's inception
workshop**

Rome, 28-29 November 2018

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Introduction

- ❑ The **Labour Force Survey (LFS) in Italy** began on **quarterly basis in 1959**. The survey is carried out by the Istat and the data are used by government to develop and monitor labour market policies

- ❑ It is the biggest and most complex sample survey in Italy
 - ✓ **75,000 households / 170,000 individuals** (reduced in 2011 to 150,000)
 - ✓ Average sampling rate: 1/300
 - ✓ statistics for small geographical areas (NUTS III)

- ❑ In order to match Eurostat standards, during the year 2002 Istat developed a new LFS

- ❑ **New LFS** replaced on old survey in **2004**: the **periodical survey has become continuous**, which means that during the same year there are interviews every week

Main methodological and organizational changes

	Quarterly survey	Continuous survey	Source of change
Reference period	1 week each quarter	All 52 weeks of the year	Eurostat
Field work organisation	Municipalities	Istat / Private company	Istat
Sample selection (once a year)	Municipalities – manual	Municipalities – software-assisted	Istat
Household substitution	Municipality personnel (discretionality)	Computer (no discretionality)	Istat
Interview	PAPI	CAPI → 1st wave CATI → 2nd, 3rd, 4th wave	Istat
Incompatibilities	Ex-post check plan	On-line check	Istat

Electronic questionnaire

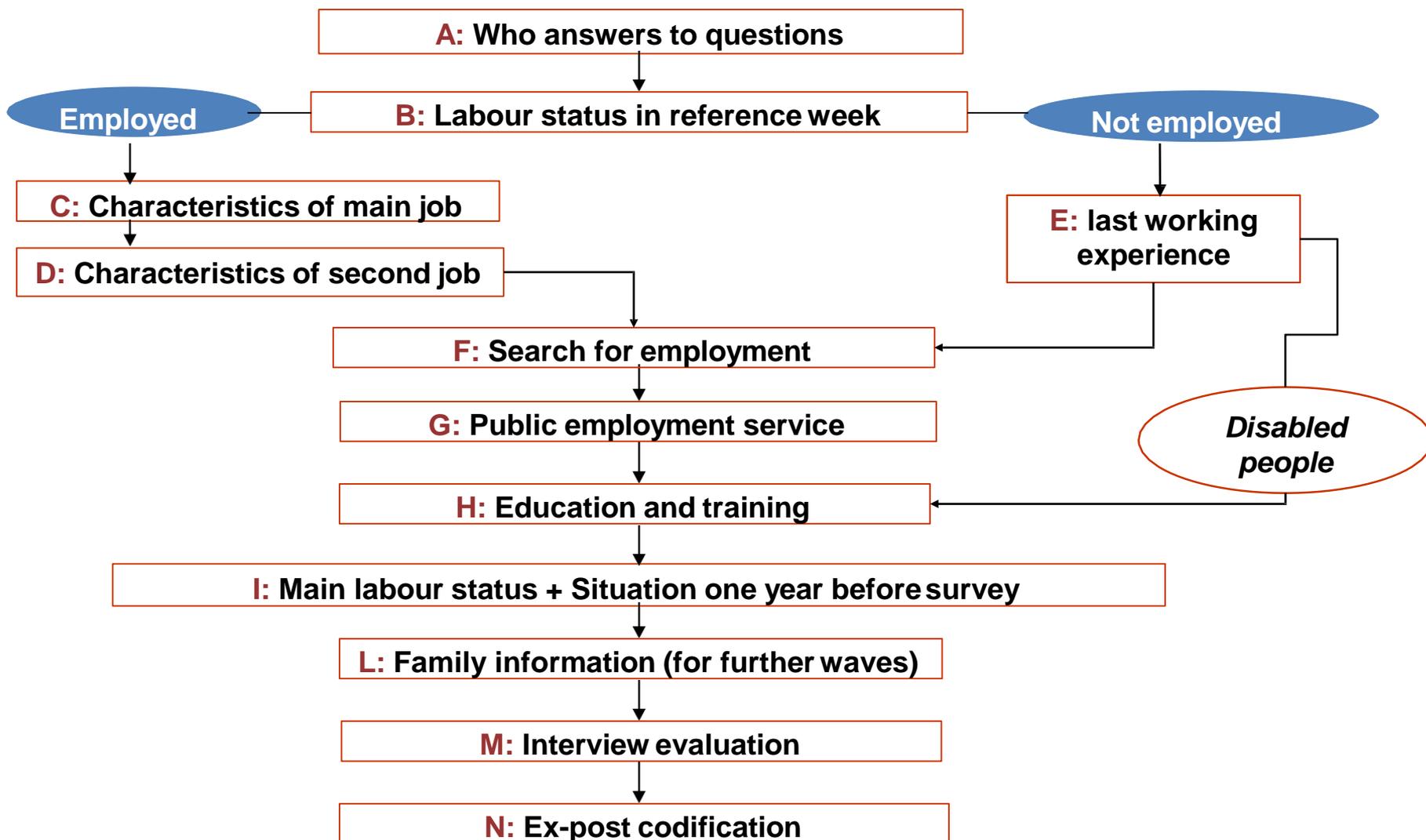
□ General features

- ✓ Computer assisted agenda to manage contacts with sample households
- ✓ Longitudinal reconstruction of the households and detection of occurred changes
- ✓ Confirmation questions for further waves
- ✓ Automatic registration of specific variables

□ Features helping interview

- ✓ Graphics accuracy (colors, fonts, dimension)
- ✓ Management of the classifications codification through online search engine
 - Economic activities, Occupations, Field of studies, etc.
- ✓ Possibility of ex-post codification
- ✓ Online help for difficult questions
- ✓ Personalization the question wording according to the profile of respondent
- ✓ Automatic management of temporal periods (e.g. reference week)
- ✓ Item “*Don't know*” only in case of proxy answers

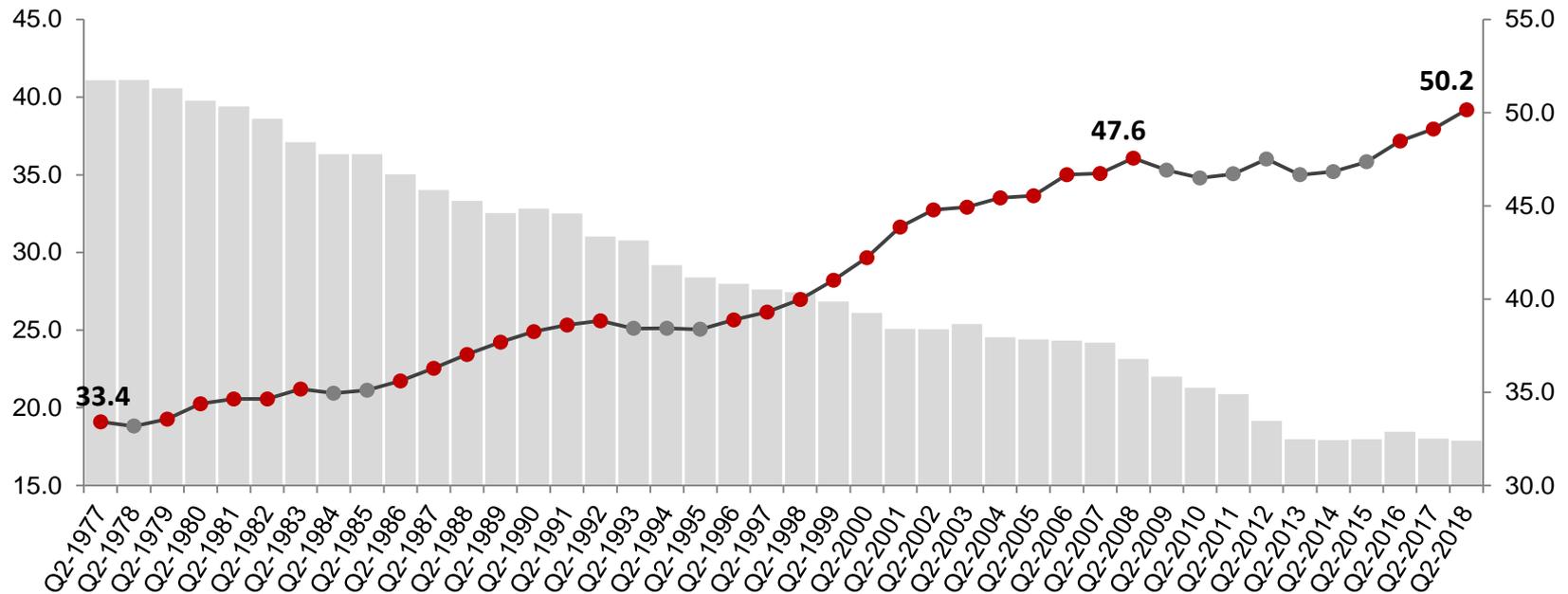
Flow-chart individual questionnaire



Gender Gap

The growth of women's occupation

Employment rate of women 15-64 years old and gap with men. IIQ 1977-IIQ 2018



Net of few exceptions, every year the employment rate of women has been the best in the series (red points). However, the recent crisis has reduced the long-term trend: in the last ten years (IIQ 2008 - IIQ 2018) the growth of the female employment rate was 2.6 points compared to 7.6 points in the previous ten years (for seven years it remained below the peak of 2008).

In the last 40 years the gender gap has fallen from 41.1 points of II 1977 to 17.9 points of IIQ 2018. This depends on many reasons.

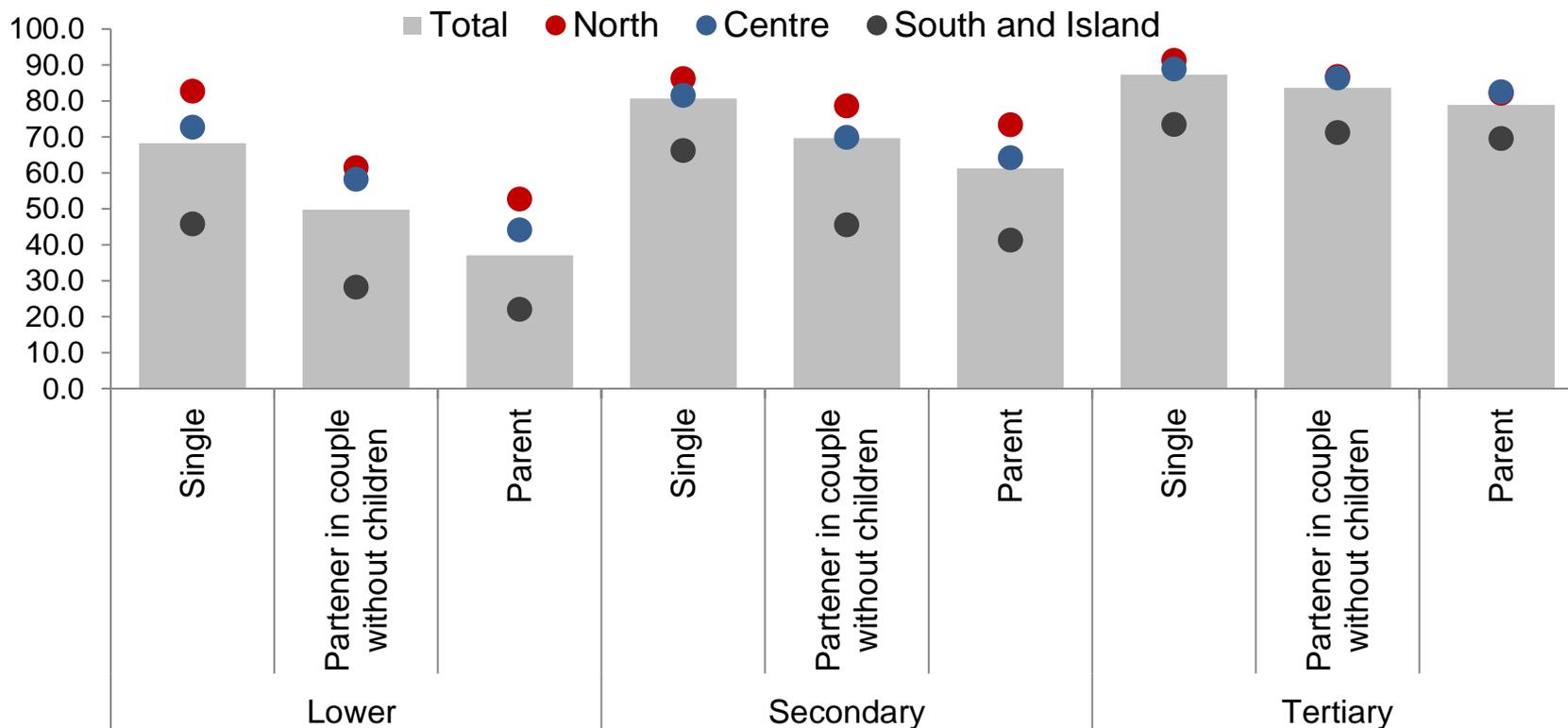
Gender gap

Several factors contribute to explain the permanent increase of women participation in the labour market: **cultural changes**, an increased **education level**, the process of **tertiarization of the economy**, the increase of **foreign workers**, and in the most recent years also the **strict requirements to the access to retirement**.

However, though there was a general increase in the female employment rate, great **differences persist** among women and their participation in the labour market:

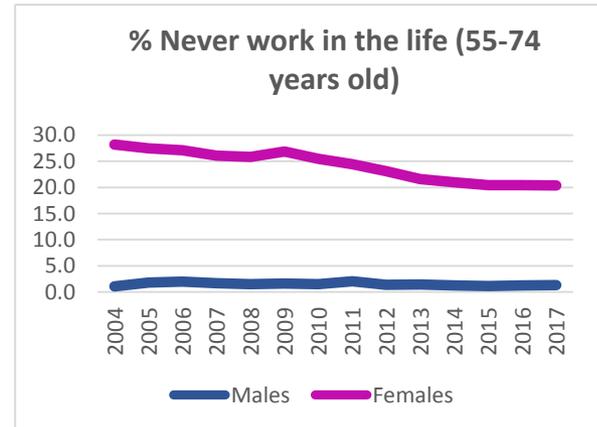
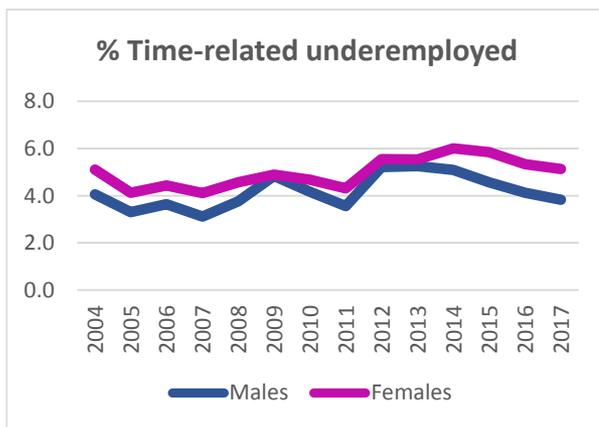
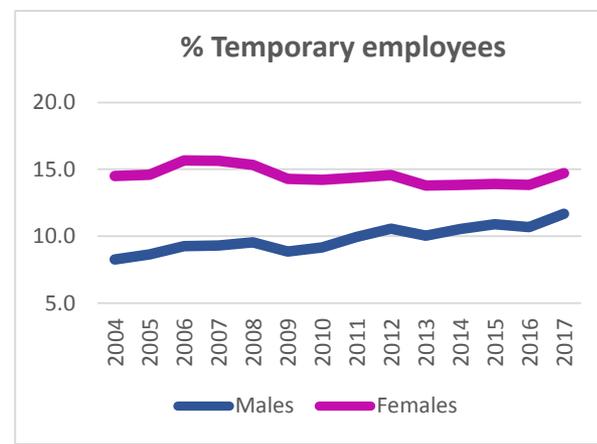
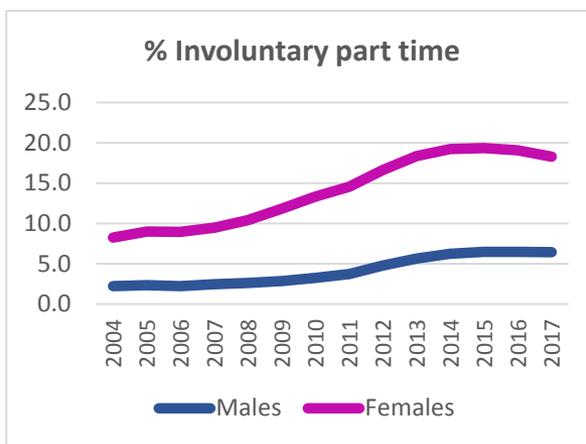
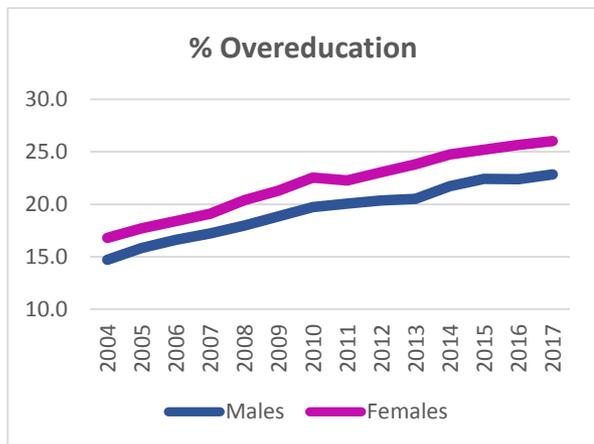
- ✓ the gap with the EU passes from 12 points in 2008 to 14 points in 2017 (from 3 to 6 points for men)
- ✓ High difference by level of education, geographical area, and role in the household
 - In 2017 the employment rate of women aged 25-49 was **80.4% for women living alone**, 69.6% for women living in a couple without children, and **56.4% for mothers**

Employment rate of women aged 25-49 years by highest level of education, role in household and geographical area. Year 2017 (%)



The **picture is very differentiated**, with the indicator for the aged 25-49 years ranging **from 22.0%** for mothers in the South and Islands area with a low education level, **to 91.2%** for women with a university degree living alone in the North.

Gender gap in quality of employment



Equitable and sustainable well-being (BES)

Equitable and sustainable well-being (BES)

- 2011 **ISTAT** (Italian National Institute of Statistics) and **CNEL** (National Council of Economy and Labour) set up a “**Steering Group on the Measurement of Progress in Italian Society**”, including representatives from entrepreneurs, trade unions and civil society
- 2013 **First Report** on the measurement of Equitable and sustainable well-being (BES); **multi-dimensional approach**, combining GDP with other measures, such as indicators of inequality and sustainability
- 2016 Some BES **indicators** officially included in **Italy's National Reform Programme**

Equitable and sustainable well-being (BES)

It was defined a list of **12 dimensions**:

- 1) Environment
- 2) Health
- 3) Material well-being
- 4) Education and training
- 5) Work and life balance** 
- 6) Interpersonal relationship
- 7) Personal security
- 8) Subjective well-being
- 9) Landscape and cultural heritage
- 10) Research and innovation
- 11) Quality of services
- 12) Politics and institutions

A suitably paid job, offering reasonable security and corresponding to the skills acquired through training and educational choices, represents a universal aspiration and makes a major contribution to individual wellbeing.

The lack of a “good job” has a negative effect on well-being.

Work commitments hindering work and life balance also negatively impact on well-being

Work and life balance

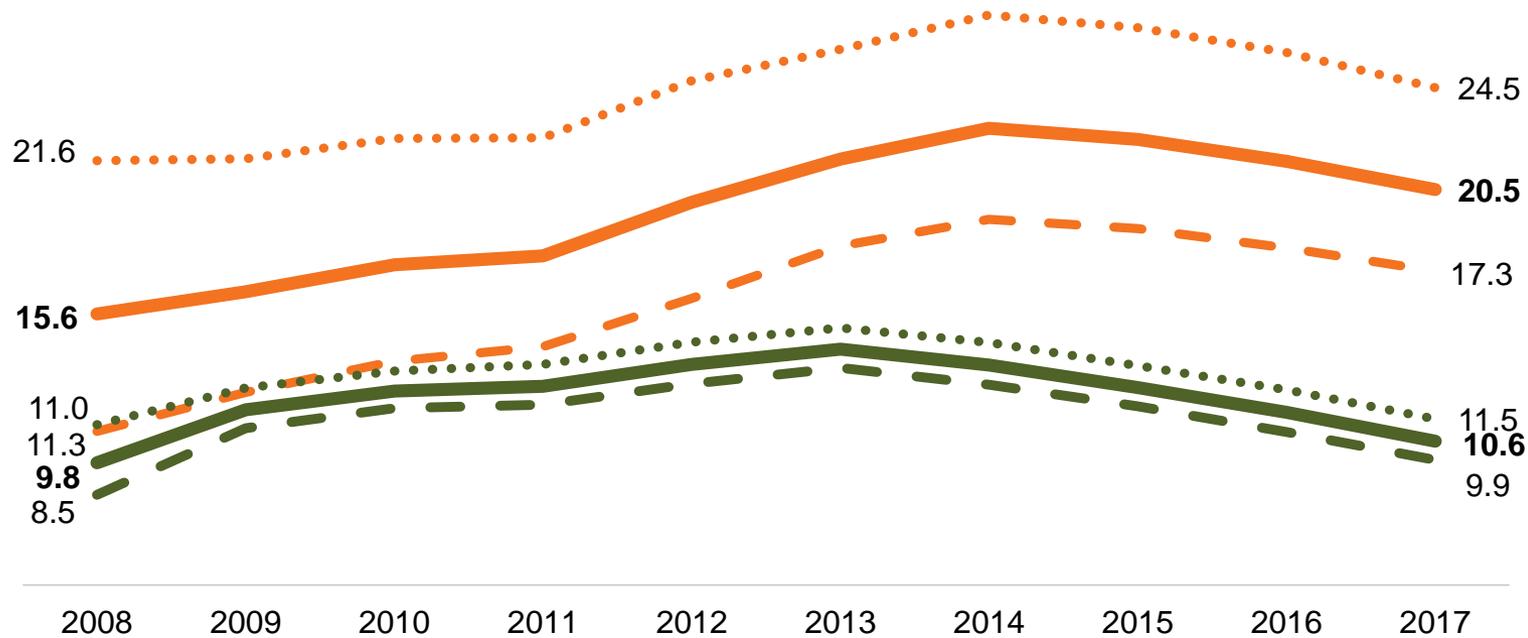
Sub- Dimension	Indicator
1. Participation and social inclusion	Employment rate of people aged 20-64 years
	Non-participation rate of people aged 15-74 years
2. Quality of work	Share of involuntary part time on total employment
	Transition rate (12 months) from non-standard to standard employment
	Share of employed persons with temporary jobs for at least 5 years
	Share of employees with below 2/3 of median hourly earnings (low pay)
	Share of over-qualified employed persons (overeducation)
	Incidence rate of fatal occupational injuries or injuries leading to permanent disability
	Share of employed persons not in regular occupation
3. Work and life balance	Ratio of employment rate for women aged 25-49 years with children under compulsory school age to the employment rate of women aged 25-49 years without children
	Share of population aged 15-64 years that work over 60 hours per week (including paid work and household work)
	Share of household work time carried out by women in a couple on the total of the household work time
4. Job satisfaction and insecurity	Job satisfaction (mean of score from 0 to 10 of eight aspects of work)
	Share of employed persons who perceived insecurity of employment

Work and life balance: Non-participation rate

The indicator **extends the unemployment rate** by including in the numerator and denominator persons outside the labour force available to work (**potential labour force who are available to work but don't seek it in the past 4 weeks**). Although the non-participation rate is not an European indicator, it can be calculated from individual aggregates. A comparison among different countries points out that the use of the unemployment rate is sometimes misleading because the phenomenon occurs in very different ways across countries for economic and institutional reasons

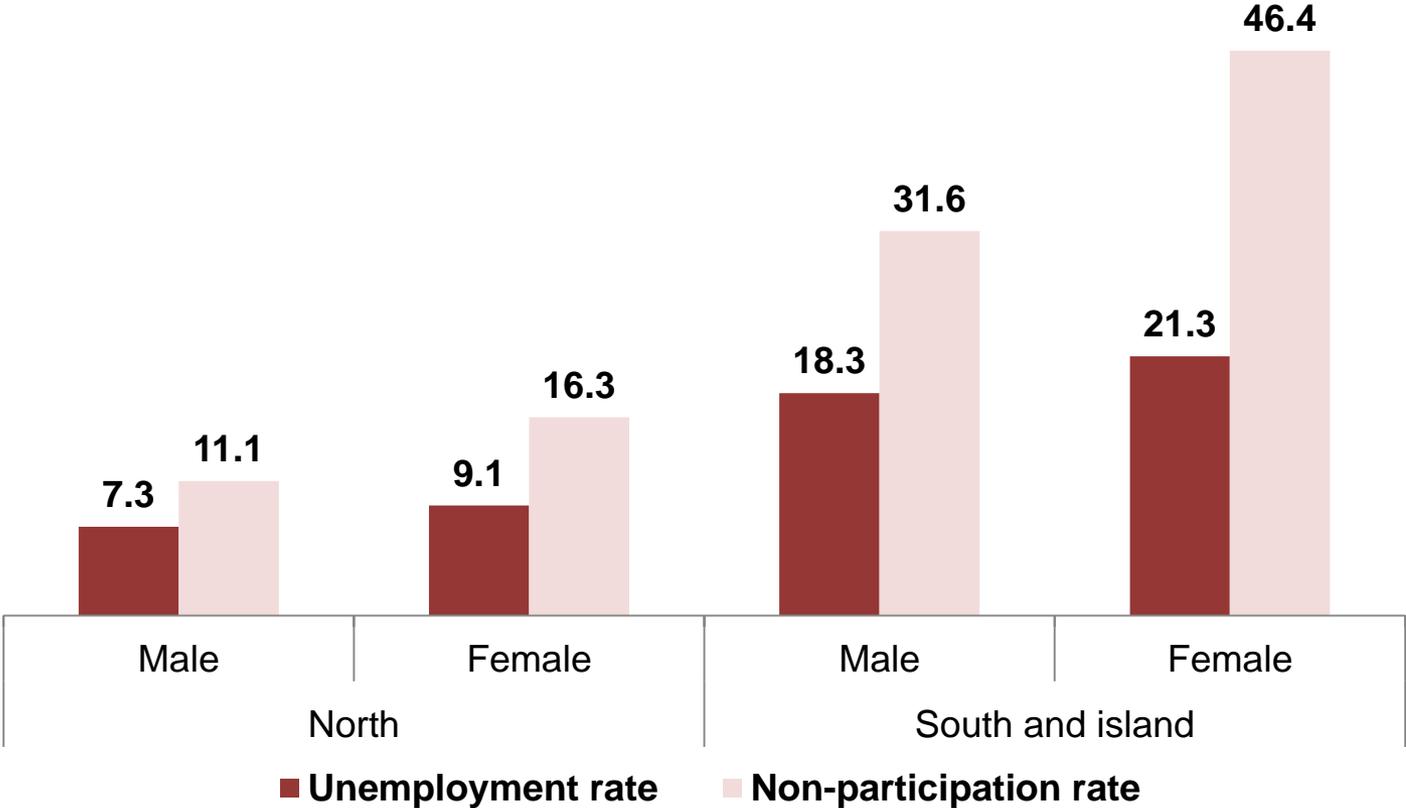
$$\text{Non – participation rate} = \frac{\text{Plf available} + \text{Unemployed}}{\text{Plf available} + \text{Labour force}} * 100$$

Non-participation rate of people aged 15-74 years in Eu and Italy for gender – Years 2008-2017



— Eu total
 — Italy total
 - - - Eu males
 - - - Italy males
 ••• Eu females
 ••• Italy females

Unemployment rate and Non-participation rate by gender and geographical areas. Italy



Work

Unfortunately, it is **not possible to estimate the "work" by Labour force survey**

Time Use is the survey that **allows to estimate all forms of work, paid and unpaid work**

In dimension **Work and life balance of BES** we have **an indicator** that considers both paid and household work:

- ✓ **Share of population aged 15-64 years that work (paid and household work) over 60 hours per week**

$$\text{Percentage of "overloaded"} = \frac{\text{Population aged 15-64 years work >60 hours per week}}{\text{Population aged 15-64 years work}} * 100$$

Paid and household work

- ❑ **54.0% of employed women** spent **more than 60 hours a week of total work** (paid and household work) compared to **46.8% of men** employed (+7.2 points)
- ❑ **The presence of children worsens the gap:** overworked women reach 61.5% of employed mothers against 50.1% of fathers (+11.4 points)
- ❑ Considering both paid and household work the **average working week of the employed is 51h49' for men and 57h59' for women**. The lower time of women in paid work (-9h38') is more than compensated by the longer time dedicated to household work (+15h47')
- ❑ The consequence of this disparity is that **women have less free time than men**

Time use and National Accounts

Time use data will also be integrated with those of National accounts by providing estimates of unpaid work, household production for sale or barter on the market and household production for own final use

By January 2019 ISTAT will publish the **book of Time use survey 2013-2014** with data, in-depth analysis, and for the first time also the monetary estimate of family production

Tania Cappadozzi cappadoz@istat.it

**Thank you for the
attention**