ISTAT publishes a report on human trafficking in Italy

The report, Human Trafficking in Italy - Years 2021-2025, includes data from the Italian Anti-Trafficking Network Information System (SIRIT), which collects data on victims of trafficking and serious exploitation. The report also contains data on perpetrators of trafficking-related crimes from the Ministry of the Interior and convicted persons from the Ministry of Justice.

The report finds that there is an increased detection of victims, with 3,520 registered victims in 2025 compared to 2,398 in 2021.

In 5 years, the percentage of men intercepted by the protection system increased from 26% in 2021 to 53% in 2025. In absolute terms, the number of men almost tripled, from 625 to 1,848, while the number of women decreased from 1,697 to 1,564. The number of minors registered in SIRIT increased from 47 in 2021 to 174 in 2025, an increase of 270%. Their incidence on the total number of victims increases from 2.0% to 4.9% and is systematically higher among males, 6.4% versus 3.6% among females in 2025.

The phenomenon also changes with reference to the countries of origin: people from Nigeria, who represented 58% of those registered in 2021, will be 18% in 2025; people from Bangladesh increase tenfold, from 55 to 544 cases. The two citizenships in trafficking have an opposite gender composition, 91% female for the former and 96% male for the latter.

In 2025, the people formally identified as victims of trafficking are 1,964, of whom 966 are men and 915 are women. For the first time, the male component exceeds the female one : it was 33% in 2022 and reaches 49% in 2025. The minors identified as victims are 53 in 2025, equal to 2.7%.

Territorial Commission for the recognition of international protection remains the main reporting channel but they register a constant decline from 849 cases in 2021 to 655 in 2025. Their total rate decreased from 35% to 19%. Instead, autonomous access grown from 308 to 513 cases, becoming the second reporting channel, possibly thanks to a growing awareness of the protection system among the population at risk. Reporting from friends, acquaintances and lawyers also increased. Data shows that the system is less dependent on detection during the international protection procedures and more from informal

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and proximity channels.

There were about 2,400 people reported to the judicial authorities by the police for crimes related to trafficking in 2025. In 2025, 65% of those involved in trafficking were engaging in sexual exploitation, and 25% were engaging in labour exploitation.

The Survey on Women's Safety, conducted in 2025 on women aged 16 to 75 (both Italian and foreign), highlights some forms of coercion, particularly prevalent among foreign women. 3.2% (over 65,000) of foreign women did not freely choose to come to Italy: 2.3% reported being coerced, and 0.9% reported being brought by force or deception. 1.3% of foreign women (approximately 26,000) and 0.4% of Italian women (over 76,000) reported having performed their work in slave-like conditions.

Source(s)

- Italian National Institute of Statistics - ISTAT Istituto Nazionale di Statistica (2 November, 2026), Pubblicato il Rapporto Istat “La tratta di esseri umani in Italia” [Istat publishes the report "Human Trafficking in Italy."], https://integrazionemigranti.gov.it/it-it/Ricerca-news/Dettaglio-news/id/4999/Lo%20sfruttamento%20lavorativo%20diventa%20la%20forma%20prevalen

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