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ON THE ROAD OUT OF THE CRISIS

ENTERPRISES AND WORK OF WOMEN IN TRANSITION BETWEEN RECESSION AND RECOVERY

ABSTRACT

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THE WORK OF WOMEN BETWEEN THE TWO RECESSIONS

The conditions of the labor market at the end of summer 2012

The monthly datas on the labor market relatives to August 2012 showed the persistence of a number of critical issues. Faced with a seal of the number of employees - the 22,934,000 of August 2012 are in line with the level of the year before - there has been a sharp rise in unemployment: it has been a sharp rise in unemployment: in one year the number of unemployed has increased by almost a third (+30.4%), an increase in the absolute value of 640,000 units reaching 2,744,000. In twelve months unemployment grows at a rate of 1,754 people per day.

The seal of the level of total employment is determined entirely by the female component. During the last year, the total employment has fallen by 0.3%, a decrease of 80 thousand units, this trend is the result of two opposite phenomena: **the male employment marks a decline on an annual basis 1, 2% while the female employment showed a growth of 0.9%.** As a result of this trend, the overall employment rate in August 2012 marks a decrease of two-tenths of a point compared to the year before; in detail by gender is observed that the male employment rate, which in August is 66.7% and decreases by 0.9 percentage points on an annual basis while **the female employment rate, now at 47.2%, increased by 0.6 points if compared to August oh the year before.**

The sharp rise of unemployment on an annual basis (+30.4%) affects the male component (+34.6%) and the female (+25.9%), both. The male unemployment rate (9.9%) increased by 2.4 percentage points in the last twelve months and the female unemployment rate, equal to 11,8% increase of 2.1 points compared to August 2011.

The dynamics of employment by sector in the last year: the analysis of four sectoral cluster.

In the second quarter of 2012 the employment rate falls by 0.2% compared to the same quarter of the year before, amounting to 48,000 employees less. The result is all due to the male component, down of 1,5% amounting to 201,700 of employees less. Employed women increased by 153,700 units, up 1,6%, driven by the **Commercial sector** that has occupied 106,500 units, equal to more than 8.2%. **Services other than trade** are also increasing by 1,0% in the sector in which year there are 65,400 occupied more.

The crisis faced by the **Construction** is also expressed with the loss of 20,900 occupied, equal to -15,1%, while the **Manufacturing** has 17,600 occupied less, equivalent to a decrease of 1,5%. Among the most dynamic sectors in terms of employment for women include the **Water supply**; **sewerage, waste management and remediation** with +64.6% (+0.3% in men), **the Manufacture of motor**

vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers with +42.5% (+3.1% in men), **the Supply of electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning** with +19.6% (+0.4% in men), the **Activities of households as employers of domestic personnel**; **production of goods and services for own use Undifferentiated households** with +14.2% (+ 22.8% in men) and the **Food Industries** with +9.7% (+2.4% in men).

Women's employment between two recessions (2008-2012).
Between August 2008 and August 2012, compared with an average change in employment of -1.9%, employed women increased by 1,7%, corresponding to an increase in the absolute value of 158,900 units. It is the male component that has been affected by the recession, showing a decrease of -4.3%, corresponding to a decrease in employment for 604,700 units. The greater resilience of women in our country emerges from a comparison with the main European countries. From the Eurostat data for the second quarter of 2012, the EU-27 employed women remain substantially unchanged (+0.2%) compared to the second quarter of 2008.
In **Italy**, however, there has been a growth of 1, 6% to 147,900 units, lower only among the major European countries considered, the rates found in **Germany** (+6.6%).

The European comparison on the basis of Eurostat data shows that in August 2012 the female unemployment rate in **Italy** is 11, 8%, in line with the Euro in 17 (11.6%), but higher than one percentage point of the average EU-27 (10.6%). Less positive signals coming from the analysis of the dynamics: the variation in the period August 2008 - August 2012 registered in our country is 3.0 percentage points, is in line with the European average in the Euro 17 (3.1) and the average EU-27 (3.0).
Of all the countries considered most important proceed better than **Italy**: in **France** there are +2.6 percentage points, +2.1 in the **UK** and **Germany**, where the unemployment rate decreased by 2.2 percentage points. Only **Spain** has a variation of the quadruple Italian: +12.1 percentage points.

The dynamics of employment for allocations and Italian regions for the period 2008-2012
The national trend shows an increase in female employment while the male employment marks a substantial loss. This evidence is confirmed in all the divisions. Particularly in the **North-East** regions employed women rose by 2.4% while the employed men recorded a drop of 2.8%. Follows **the Center** where women employed rose by 1,5%, while the men go down by 0.5%, **the South** with +1.4% for women and men fall in employment equal to -9.1% and finally the **North-West** where a less intense growth of the occupied, +1.1%, is accompanied by a decrease in employment of 4.7%.
In fifteen territories the female employment is an increase in the period observed, the highest growth rates are those observed in the **Autonomous Province of Bolzano** (+9.7%), in **Valle d'Aosta** (+4.3%), **Sardinia** (+4.2%), **Basilicata** (+4.1%) and in the

Autonomous Province of Trento (+4.0%). In contrast we note the down of five regions: the region most in need is the **Molise** (-5.8%), preceded by **Liguria** (-3.4%), **Abruzzo** (-2.9%), **Tuscany** (-1.3 %) and **Umbria** (-0.6).
Stable women employment in **Calabria**.
Only in three territories the performance of women is worse than men: in **Abruzzo** female employment falls by 2.9% compared to -1.6% of men, in **Umbria** employed women fell by 0.6% against the growth of the male employment of 0.3% and finally employed women in **Tuscany** decreased by 1,3%, while men only 0.7%.

The employment trend 2008-2012 for location, nature of employment and education

The seal of female employment is guaranteed by the occupation employee who, during the period examined, increase of the 3.0%, compared with a decline of self-employment by 4.4%, showing that in the crisis the component of self-employment, with less protection by social safety nets, showed signs of suffering more severe.
Over the four years examined there is a marked increase in the component part-time employment for women, up by 13.6%, against a decline of 3.2% of full-time employment component.
Grow employed women with a medium-high education (+6.0%), while a sharp decline (-8.5%) the employment of women with no qualifications, a primary school and the media. In particular, there is a positive correlation between intensity of growth in employment and qualification: the variation was 3.6% for female graduates and grows to 11,3% for women in graduate or post-graduate training.

The long run of female employment and the 'overtaking' of the Services in 2012

The more accentuated dynamism of women - recorded last year and in the last four years, both - is a phenomenon long known, and that is also confirmed in the longer term, if we keep the time series provided by Istat, **it is estimated that between 1977 and 2010 employment in Italy has risen to 2,810,000 units, all determined by the female component of growth: the growth of 3,166,000 employed women has, in fact, offset the decrease in employment of 356,000 units male.**

In the long term the company has gradually turned to the tertiary sector: if in 1977 the share of value added generated by services was 54.2% in 2010 this rose to 72.7%, an increase of 18.5 points. As a result, employment growth in the sector has been tumultuous: the 33 years of the period covered by the series of female employment in services rose by 4.49 million units, an increase of 140.1%. In the same period the employment of men in service increased by 1,754,000 units at a rate of 29.0%.
Even in self-employment in the service sector the female shows a greater dynamism than men: in the 33 years considered independent women in employment rose by 566,000 units, accounting for 67.1% higher rate almost double that recorded by self employed males over the period rose by 37.2%.

The long run of female employment, and specifically the component used in the Services, ends with a pass. If we analyze the most recent series - according to the sector classification Ateco 2007 - and we take as a reference the average annualized of employees (average for the last four quarters). **This year, overtaking the record of the men employed in services by women employed in the sector : to the second quarter of 2012 women employed in services are 7,827,000, 43,000 more than the 7,784,000 employed males.**

Employment and inactivity for women in European countries

By focusing on one of the principal indicators of the labor market, the rate of inactivity, the European comparison shows clearly one of the most well-known problems of our economy represented by the low participation of women in the labor market: **Italy**, in 2011, a female inactivity rate of 48.5% that among the 27 European Union countries, is second only to that of **Malta** (55.9%). More than 13 percentage points is the difference between the average EU-27 (35.1%).

Even in this case, is the north of Europe to present the best levels of the index: the lowest rate of inactive women found in **Sweden** with 22.3%, preceded by **Denmark** (23.9%) and the **Netherlands** (26 , 9%). Among the major European countries, the lowest female inactivity is observed in **Germany** with the rate at 28.2%, followed by the **UK** with 30.3%, **Spain** with 33.0% and **France** with 33, 8%.

Comparing the dynamic between 2004 and 2011 the rate of inactivity Italian with that of most European countries, emerges as the low participation of women in the labor market is a structural phenomenon: in the long run, between 2004 and 2011, **Spain**, the country less distant from **Italy** in 2004 for female inactivity rate (43.4% versus 49.6% in Italy), in the seven-year period reduced the downtime of 10.4 percentage points, to 5.6 between 2007 and 2011, while the changes recorded in **Italy** are minimal, a decrease of 1.1 percentage points over the past seven years and by 0.8 points in the last four.

The Italian is the dynamic worst recorded compared to the major European countries between 2004 and 2011 and only 0.1 percentage points better than the **United Kingdom** between 2007 and 2011.

A comparison in the 271 European regions

The analysis on the employment rate shows a disturbing picture, especially for the regions of southern Italy that occupy the lowest positions in the standings. In particular, **Calabria, Apulia, Sicily and Campania** are the last places : in the latter region only a quarter of women between 15 and 64 years is occupied (25.4%).

If we take as a reference the international statistics on labour of the International Labour Organization (ILO) concerning employment, we observe that, in the last year available, **Campania**, with the average rate of employment of women aged 15 years and older of 20.4%, has the same level of female employment in **Pakistan** and slightly exceeds that of **Lebanon** (20.2%), **Yemen** and **Mauritania** (19.2%) and **Egypt** (18.7%).

If Africa is less than 2 percentage points close to the Italian region with the lowest female employment, Northern Europe is far more than 35 points: the 27 EU Country with the highest rate of employment and equal to 56.0%, **Denmark** is off by 6.9 percentage points the **Provincia Autonoma di Bolzano**, the Italian territory with the female employment rate higher (49.1%).The problem of low labour market participation of women in our country is more rooted in the South: in first place among the 271 regions for inactivity rate in 2011 is **Campania** with 68.6%, **Sicily**, **Calabria, Apulia, Basilicata** in the first five places. Once again it is the **province of Bolzano-Bozen** with the female lower inactivity rate, down 34.5%, which places it at 118° place in the European rankings. Follows by **Emilia-Romagna** with 35.1% to 111° place and the **Valle d'Aosta** with 35.8% to 107°.
The datas emerged at the regional level determine an average rate of inactivity in 2011 women in southern Italy of 63.2%. the huge gap with the lowest rate for breakdowns in Italy, namely 38.4% in the Northeast. Following the Northwest with 39.8% and 43.2% in the Center.
The Northeast is the Division where there are major variations in both decrease between 2007 and 2011 (-1.3 percentage points, national average -0.8), both between the 2010 and 2011 (-0.7 percentage points, national average -0.4), period, the latter, whose center Italy shows a weak increase (+0.1).

“Grey Zone" and the participation of women in the labour market on the territory

In 2011 in Italy it is possible to count 9,655,900 inactive women between 15 and 64 years old and whose 46.2%, amounting to 4,459,800, only in the South. Among inactive women, the 80.2% is not looking for work and is not available to work. The remaining part is defined by Istat "grey zone", represented by an inactive group that is "potentially attached to the labour market", substantially closer to active participation. This area is made up of women who seek work but not actively (in 2011 was the 43.1% of the total category), from those who are looking but are unavailable (8.7%) and by women who do not seek but are available (the remaining 48.2% of the "grey zone"). Is the South of Italy “Mezzogiorno” the area where the incidence of that grey area is greater: the 27.5% compared to the 19.8% of the national average, while, once again, is the North-East with the lowest value (11.6%).

A look into the future: the targets of Europe 2020 and the sustainability of the welfare system in 2060.

The 3rd of March 2010 the European Commission presented the hei of Lisbon 2010: it is “**Europe 2020**” a strategy designed to support the European economy out of the crisis and to face the challenges of this decade. In relation to the labour market the strategy **Europe 2020 sets to 2020, in eight years’ time, an employment rate of the population between 20-64 years equal to 75%, higher than the one previously fixed.** The target this time is not a specification of gender and, accordingly, the final result will be given from the composition between the employment rate of men and

that of women. It is interesting to observe that in the first quarter of 2012 all major European countries show a lower employment rate compared to the target, with the exception of **Germany**, where employment is higher than the goal of Europe 2020 by 0.9 percentage points. In particular **Spain** shows the highest gap, with a lower employment rate of 15.4 points compared to the target, followed by **Italy**, far from the target of 14.3 points. **To reach in 2020 an occupancy rate between 20 and 64 years old same as German and above the target of Europe 2020, it will be needed an increase of women occupied of 3.8% on average per annum**, against a more sustainable increase of the masculine employment rate, equal to 1.1% on average per annum. Consequently, over the next nine years, women occupied should increase by 3,620,000 units and men of 1,397,000 units. The perspective of a sustainable pension and health care system requires a constant increase of women's participation in the labour market. In the face of a growing participation of adult women between 25 and 64 years old between 1980 and 2010 of 18.4 points equal to an average +0.6 per year between 2010 and 2030 the activity rate of adult women will have to go up another 10 points, rising to 66.0%, with an average growth of half a point per year.
The growing participation of women in the labour market must be accompanied by a substantial increase in productivity: the average growth rate of the product for employed between 2010 and 2060 should be, in fact, of 1.2%. In the examined half a century the productivity should increase of 80.3% overall. This growth will have to engage on a framework currently stagnating: between 2000 and 2010 the productivity decreases (-0.4% per year) and between 2010 and 2020 remains almost unchanged. **Will be essential, therefore, to ensure conditions favorable to greater female labor supply and productivity growth without which Italy will not be able to maintain the sustainability of pension spending, without further reform measures.** In fact it's just based on these strong assumptions about the rate of female activity and on the dynamics of productivity that pension expenditure in relation to GDP in 2050 will be 15.4% and broadly in line with that of 2010 (15.3%), while in 2060 will even fall to 13.9%.

The D factor for growth: with female employment in line with the EU average Italy will need 7 years less to recover the pre-crisis level

If we take into account the annual forecasts concerning the dynamics of employment contained in Note Document updating Public Finance published by MEF, between 2011 and 2013 the expected dynamics of occupation is characterized by the minus sign and only from 2014 begins shooting with a growth of +0.4% and +0.6% in 2015. Assuming, by 2016, a growth rate equal to the average of the 2014 and 2015 (+0.5%), it is estimated that at this rate, the pre-crisis level of 2007 will be reached and surpassed only in 2024: **employment will suffer the effects of the Great recession for 17 years.**
The conditions for a greater participation of women in the labor market and a consequent higher employment can increase the growth potential of the economy. A simple counterfactual exercise highlights how the increased contribution of women to

the processes of creating added value for the economy would give an important contribution to the growth of the economy.
If we assume, for mere hypothesis, that **the gap between the rate of Italian female employment and the EU-27 average is reduced over the next two decades,** it is estimated that **with the highest boost that would derive from female offer component of the labour market employment levels of 2007 would be reached in 2017. In this way it would be reduced to 7 years the recovery time**, that reaching 10 years, will bring back to normal the effects of the Great recession, making them more similar to those of the previous crisis of 1992-1993: even then, indeed, the highest employment of 1991 was recovered in 2001.

BEYOND GDP-WOMEN IN HEALTH MEASUREMENT

It is now spread the idea that the parameters on which assessing the progress of a company must not only be economic, but also social and environmental certification, accompanied by measures of inequality and sustainability. In this context fits the project to measure equitable and sustainable wellbeing born from an initiative of the CNEL (the Italian CESE) and Istat.
The project involves the identification of 12 dimensions of well-being that have been shared with the scientific community at the Conference in Rio de Janeiro in June 2012 on sustainable development. The 12 dimensions are the following: environment, health, wealth, education and training, work and life time balance social relations, security, subjective well-being, landscape and cultural heritage, research and innovation, quality of services, policy and institutions.
In order to represent this size it has been selected a set of 134 core indicators to measure the well-being. These indicators, broken down by the 12 dimensions[1], are summarized in the following table.

The details of the indicators for each type of well-being, we have highlighted those directly specific to women and those that allow gender inflection. The analysis shows that **7 indicators, the 5.2% of the total, directly affect the female component** of the population compared with a total absence of specific indicators for the male component. In particular, the specific interest for the status of women emerges for the purposes of assessing **the well-being in the context of work and life time conciliation, in the dimension of security and the dimension of Politics and Institution**. The first analyzes the **relationship between the employment rate of women 25-49 years with preschool children and women without children** and the incidence of time devoted to housework by women on the time devoted to housework by both partners (**Index of asymmetry of family labor**); moreover, the structural problem of inactivity, previously dealt with, influence the choice of employment rate to measure the level of participation in the labor market than the unemployment rate usually used. In the dimension of **Security** is assessed the **Rate of domestic violence**

[1] *For more details: http://www.misuredelbenessere.it/*

against women, and within **Politics and Institution** sector is studied the number of women in Parliament, Regional Councils, in decision-making bodies (*Corte costituzionale; Consiglio Superiore della Magistratura; Consob; Ambasciatrici; Autorità di garanzia e regolazione: Antitrust, Autorità Comunicazioni, Autorità Privacy)* and in the boards of trade companies. The presence of these indicators highlight how the status of women in the various areas taken in analysis, directly affects the well-being of the whole society. Furthermore, the future availability of these indicators will make it possible to specifically intercept the perception of welfare for the female component of the population. Among the other indicators we have identified **81**, **equal to the 60.4% of the total potentially available by gender**, between these 3 indicators, the 3.7% of the 81, are related to the gender of the reference person of the family [2].

WOMEN IN THE SEGMENTS THAT ARE AFFECTED BY THE REFORM OF THE LABOUR MARKET

The labour market is segmented and the "jobs" configured are different: considering specifically women working, in 2011, of the 9,348,602 **women occupied**, 7,644,631 are **employees** equal to the 81.8% of the total, and 1,703,971 **indipendent/self-employed**, which accounted for 18.2% remaining. As regards the employed women in Public Administration[3], in 2010 were 1,801,654, which accounted for 19.3% of the total number of the occupied women and to 23.6% of employees: less than one employee in four is a public employee.

The observation of the datas shows that, if we consider **the main business figures involved the reform of the labor market**[4], there is an incidence of **female component equal to 49.7 percent, higher of 9 percentage points than the proportion of women out of the total of employees (40.7%),** indicating that **the orientation of the reform of labour affect areas where women are relatively more present.**

Quality and quantity of spending on local welfare and employment for women

The risk of possible cuts in the quantity and quality of welfare services provided by regional and authorities – due to the spending reductions required by 2011 operations

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[2] *With the term : reference person of the family we mean the the holder of the registration card (corresponding to the old concept of head of the household) and which defines the relationship of kinship (Istat-Glossario Statistico)*

[3] *The annual amount is comprehensive of the long term employees, mid term employees, School, AFAM, Army and Police, and others.*

[4] *We took the gender distribution on fixed-term contracts, contracts, Employees 50 plus, delivery contract workers, Apprentices, employees with part-time contract, on-call Contracts, "parasubordinate" Workers, Foreign Workers, unemployed, disabled, unemployment Beneficiaries, Beneficiaries of mobility allowance, Beneficiaries of parental leave.*

- could adversely affect the demand on the labor market and the employment of women, undermining the contribution of a segment of society decisive in the process of economic growth.
There is a significant correlation between the rate of female employment and the annual percentage rate of quality and quantity of welfare services.
There are seven regions with an index of quality and quantity of local welfare services 40% above than the national average. The region with the highest value of indicator is **Emilia-Romagna** with a index is almost twice the national average (194.0) and an employment rate of women amounted to 61.9%, which puts the region at 2nd place in the national ranking of female employment.
After that there is the **Valle d'Aosta** region with an index of 157.8 and an employment rate of 60.6%, and in 3rd place in the ranking of employment there is the **Lombardy** region with an index of 155.7 and a rate occupancy of 56.7%. In 6th place the province of **Trento** with an index of 155.4 and an employment rate of 58.0%, and in 4th place there is the **Friuli-Venezia Giulia** region with an index of 154,4 and an employment rate of 56.2%. In 8th place the **Tuscany** region with an index of 146.1 and an employment rate of 54.7% and in 10th place and the province of **Bolzano** with an index of 145,8 and an employment rate of 63.8%, the highest in Italy.

Local administrations before welfare go attacked waste and overspending
If, on the one hand, spending operations launched in 2011 to affect over half on the budgets of the regions, provinces and municipalities and the other non-pension welfare has focal point of its demand the local administrations, **it is appropriate to identify spending cuts other than those from welfare to avoid the emergence of negative effects occur on the employment rate of women** given the high correlation between examined female work and the quality and quantity of local health services and care.
The challenge of return to growth then passes through more careful policies to promote increased labor force participation and women's employment. This challenge must be interpreted properly by the Local Authorities: **regions, provinces and municipalities must, therefore, necessarily adopt policies to crack down on inefficient spending streams or waste.**
The size of the overspending makes evident the possibility of using spending cuts and waste reduction to lower the tax burden for citizens and businesses. If you meet the excess of expenditure data processed by the extraordinary Commissioner for the rationalization of spending with the tax revenues of the regions relating to additional Irpef of Copaff source (2012), we observe that even **in five regions - Valle d'Aosta, Provincia Autonoma di Bolzano, Sardinia, Basilicata and Sicily - the reduction of excess spending could allow to reset the additional regional income tax Irpef.**
Even for staff expenditure of the bureaucratic machinery of the municipalities we have elaborated a simulation of the potential savings that could be achieved if the territories adapt to ***benchmark*** **given by the average expenditure per inhabitant of**

the municipalities of the four best-performing regions.
In detail these are the regions of Emilia-Romagna, Lombardy, Lazio and Puglia which, together, spend on the staff of General Administrative Functions of management and control 99 euro per inhabitant. Based on this model calculate **a cost in excess for staff of municipal bureaucracies of 1,451 million.** There are overspending particularly relevant in southern Italy where you could get a saving of 873 million which accounted for 29.7% of current expenditure. Savings of 221 million, or 16.1% of expenditure, in the Northeast, to 241 million, or 13.2%, in the North West and 110 million, equal to 8.5%, in the Centre.

The cut of the overspending of the municipalities would more than double (+110%) the expenditure on welfare

A specific analysis conducted by SOSE and made for the extraordinary Commissioner for the rationalization of expenditure analysed the cost of goods and services carried out by Italian municipalities, indicating that in 2011 the average Italian towns have an inefficient expense rate of 23.4%. This indicator is calculated as the ratio between potential spending reductions and the total expenditure made by each institution in question. The **estimated savings with this approach comes to 7,791 million, equal to 128 euros per inhabitant.** Achieving **such savings could free up resources that might more double (+110.5%) of municipalities expenditure for interventions and social services** and that, according to the latest data available relating to 2009, amounts to 116 euros per capita.

THE PRESENCE OF WOMEN IN CRAFT REALITY IN MID-2012

The entrepreneurs craft owners

In mid-2012 are 367,895 women with business offices in the craft sector in Italy, equivalent to 1,448,867. The geographical area that registers the most substantial presence of small entrepreneurs is the **North-West** (31.3%), followed by the **North-East** (25.1%), the **South** (22.4%) and the **Center** (21.2%).

The 19.8% of all the entrepreneurs surveyed in Italy are crafts women entrepreneurs. Their incidence is highest in the **Centre**, with a value equal to 20.7%, followed by the **North-East** (20.3%), the **North-West** (19.7%) and **South** (18.6%).

In the regional breakdown, the higher incidence of women appearing in craft shows in the **Abruzzo** region, with a 22.5 percent stake, followed by **Umbria** and le **Marche** with similar values, respectively 22.4% and 22.1%.

The Istat data on employment also reveal how much self-employment for women represents a concrete mode of access to the labour market, especially in the regions of the **Southern** and the **Center** where in the 2nd quarter of 2012 the share of self-employment in total employment of women is 21.1% respectively and at 18.6%, above-average values to those recorded in Northern Italy. Especially in the Southern self-employment offers a concrete solution to combat unemployment, especially for women.

Overall, in Italy there are over 1.7 million independent women, nearly one-third (30.4%) of the total number of independent employed.

Whereas women once again with business offices in the craft sector in mid-2012, there has been a general decline (albeit slight and equal to -0.2%) nationwide with the exception of the **Center** where you record a growth of 0.4%.
The **181,348 women holders of individual craft enterprises** accounting for 21.0% of the total number of women holding such companies in Italy. The geographical distribution finds a higher incidence in the **Northwest** which accounted for 27.6%, follows the **Northeast** where more than a quarter of the total number of women business owners of sole proprietorships are owners of sole proprietorships craft (25.7%), the **Centre** with a value equal to 21.9% and the **South** with the lowest fee, amounting to 14.8%.
In regional detail the highest incidences are those found in **Lombardy** (31.6%), in **Emilia Romagna** (27.5%), **Veneto** (25.8%), **Marche** (24.8%) and **Tuscany** (24.6%).
By analyzing the dynamics of these holders it is interesting to note that, despite the difficult period we are going through, in the second quarter of 2012 the owners of sole proprietorships craft register an increase, albeit slight, of 0.3% compared to the same period in 2011. The growth is significantly stronger in the **Center** which records a +1.1% while in the **South** there is a decrease of 0.6%.
Compared to that, women-owned individual firms (including crafts) have decreased by 0,4% following a negative trend that has concerned all regions but the central ones, which have been characterized by an increase of 0,4%.
Looking at individual regions, a significant increase in female craft entrepreneurs (higher than 1,0%) has been reported in **Trentino-Alto Adige** (3,3%), **Valle d'Aosta** (2,9%), **Tuscany** (1,7%), **Friuli-Venezia Giulia** (1,5%) and **Marche** (1,2%).
Regarding the activity sectors, more than half of women-owned craft businesses (57,4%, i.e. 104.082 women) are engaged within the macro-sector[5] of **services to people** and a significant percentage of entrepreneurs work in the **manufacturing sector** (one in four female craft entrepreneurs, i.e. 46.511 women). As for the fields of **services to enterprises** and **constructions**, the figures are 12,5% (22.582 women) and 4,1% (7.414 women) respectively.
Compared to the same period in 2011, in the II trimester of 2012 a positive trend has been registered regarding the number of individual craft enterprises owned by women, with the only exception of the **manufacturing sector**, in which the number of female entrepreneurs has decreased by 1,1% (515 women less than the previous period) due to the economic crisis started in 2008. While the field of **services to people** has been substantially stable (+0,3% increase, i.e. 304 more women than the previous period), a significant increase has been observed in the **construction sector**

[5] *ATECO 2007 sections, i.e. Manufacturing sector (C Manufacturing activities), Construction sector (F Construction sector), Services to enterprises (H Transport and storage, J Information and communication services, K Financial and assurance activities, L Real estate activities, M Professional, scientific and technical activities, N Travel agencies, support services to enterprises), Services to people (P Education, Q Health and social care, R artistic, sport, entertaining and recreational activities, G wholesale and retail marketing; car and motorcycle repairing, S other services) and other sectors (A Agriculture, forestry and fishery, B mine extraction, D Energy, gas and steam supply, E water supply; sewerage systems, waste management and X non classified enterprises).*

(4,1%, i.e. 291 more women than the previous period) and in the field of **services to enterprises** (2,3%, i.e. 498 more women).

An overview of individual women-owned craft enterprises at provincial level

In the second trimester of 2012, compared to the same period in 2011, women-owned craft enterprises have undergone positive trends in 37 provinces out of 105, particularly in **Macerata** (3,4%), **Taranto** (3,0%), **Messina** (2,8%), **Aosta** (2,7%) and **Bolzano** (2,1%). Negative trends have been reported in 63 provinces, particularly in **Oristano** (-2,6%), **Belluno** (-2,5%) and **L'Aquila** (-2,1%), while a certain stability has been observed in **Catanzaro**, **Gorizia**, **Parma**, **Pavia** and **Siena.**

Women-owned individual craft enterprises by province

The ratio of individual women-owned craft businesses to overall individual women-owned businesses is significantly high (equal or higher than 30%) in 15 out of 105 provinces, particularly in **Prato** (42,3%), **Monza e Brianza** (36,5%), **Varese** (36,4%), **Como** (35,9%) and **Novara** (34,5%).

Trends of female craft entrepreneurship by economic sector and province

In 22 provinces out of 105, more than 30% of individual women-owned craft enterprises are active in the manufacturing sector, particularly in **Prato** (72,4%), **Fermo** (46,5%), **Firenze** (44,4%), **Arezzo** (39,1%) and **Macerata** (37,4%). Figures concerning the manufacturing sector tend to reach their lowest level in **Aosta** (12,7%), **Gorizia** (12,9%), **Trento** (14,9%), **Sondrio** (15,0%), and **Imperia** (15,5%). The number of female craft entrepreneurs has increased in 56 provinces out of 105, particularly in **Macerata** (5,1%), **Firenze** (4,6%), **Bolzano** (4,5%), **Pistoia** (3,3%) and **Arezzo** (3,1%). To a lesser extent, this is also the case in a number of provinces such as **Imperia** and **Reggio Calabria** (both +0,1%), **Lecce** and **Enna** (both +0,2%), **Ancona** and **Genova** (both +0,3%), **Catanzaro** (0,4%) and **Novara** (0,5%). On the other hand, negative trends have been particularly observed in **Verbano-Cusio Ossola** (-3,3%), **Belluno** (-3,1%), **Benevento** (-3,0%), **Sassari** (-2,9%), **Potenza** and **Avellino** (both -2,2%). The number of women-owned businesses has been stable in **Lucca**, **Crotone** and **Brescia.**

Female entrepreneurs and autonomous workers in Europe

The data that have been presented so far clearly show that female craft entrepreneurs significantly contribute to the development of female entrepreneurship. These data are also consistent with the latest Eurostat outcomes concerning the II trimester of 2012, according to which Italy is the best performing country within the EU, as far as the number of female entrepreneurs and autonomous workers is concerned. Specifically, there are 1.565.400 female entrepreneurs and autonomous workers in Italy, i.e. 15,4% of overall independent female entrepreneurs in EU27. Italy is followed by **Germany** (1.375.100), **United Kingdom** (1.238.800), **Poland** (1.036.500), **Spain** (926.900) and **France** (849.600).

Italy has maintained its leadership in the long term, far outreaching Germany in the II trimester of 2004, 2008 and 2012. The United Kingdom has had a shift from fourth to third position, thus overtaking Poland in the second trimester of 2012. The situation of Spain and France has not changed (fifth and sixth position respectively).
Italy's leadership with these regards is also confirmed by the ratio of female entrepreneurs and autonomous workers to the total number of female workers within the major European countries: 16,4% in **Italy**, 11,7% in **Spain**, 9,1% in the **UK**, 7,5% in **Germany**, 6,9% in **France**. As evident, Italy's figures go far beyond the average ones registered within the Euro Area (10,2%) and EU27 (10,3%).
To conclude, a long term analysis shows that the ratio of female craft businesses has been constantly higher in Italy compared to other major countries of the European Union. However, the gap has been decreasing over the years. Specifically, while the difference between Italy and the Euro Area in the second trimester of 2004 was 8,3 percentage points, this figure has decreased to 6,2 pp in the second trimester of 2012.

A historical overview of women-owned craft businesses

This paragraph deals with an analysis of women-owned craft businesses from a historical perspective, starting from 2005, i.e. the year in which data were first published by Unioncamere-Infocamere.
A long-term analysis shows that since 2005 the number of women-owned craft businesses has been following a positive trend characterized by an increase of 1,7%. This phenomenon may be considered even more impressive if one takes into account the fact that major increase in craft enterprises has been mainly observed since the crisis outbreak in 2008. During the crisis (2008 – 2012), in fact, female craft entrepreneurs have increased by 2,0% compared to the negative figures reported in 2005-2008 (-0,3%).
Different trends have been observed in different regions. In fact, between the second trimester of 2008 and the second trimester of 2012 positive trends were reported in the **central regions** (4,7% growth), in **North-West** (4,0% growth) and in **North-East** (3,1% growth), while negative trends were reported in the **South** (-2,7%).
Specifically, positive trends have been remarkably high in the **Autonomous province of Bolzano** in the North (+11,3%) and in **Tuscany** (+7,6%) in central Italy, while figures have been particularly low in **Sardinia** and **Sicily**.

FEMALE CRAFT ENTREPRENEUSR IN THE COMMUNES HIT BY THE EARTHQUAKE IN MAY 2012

The economic *tsunami* triggered by the earthquake

The earthquake involving 110 communes in Emilia Romagna, Lombardy and Veneto between 20th and 29th May 2012 has largely affected the economic performance of those regions in terms of GDP. Today, the consequences of the earthquake are still strongly evident in the most affected region, Emilia Romagna: there are still 3.841 people under assistance. At the end of August 38.726 safety checks were carried out

demonstrating that 36,2% of buildings were safe, 17,5% were partially safe, 35,9% were unsafe and 5,4% were unsafe due to external risks.
The economic recession and the earthquake have caused serious damage to the entrepreneurs and the enterprises of the territory, which have been facing halting productivity and reconstruction. In Emilia Romagna the economic crisis is particularly aggravated by the aftermath of the earthquake, which has seriously impacted on the region's productivity. Recent data regarding the economic crisis confirm this scenario by showing that in the second trimester of 2012 Emilia Romagna has been still undergoing a period of economic recession with negative impacts on enterprises, which have reported lower turnovers, falling demand and weaker productivity. Growing exports and foreign demand have been the only exception within this scenario.

Women entrepreneurs in the areas hit by the earthquake between 20th and 29th May

As of the second trimester of 2012 there are **7.083 women-owned craft enterprises** in 110 communes hit by the earthquake within the provinces of Bologna, Ferrara, Modena, Reggio Emilia, Mantova and Rovigo. Female entrepreneurs in those areas are mostly active within the Service sector (63,5%) and have slightly increased by 0,5% compared to one year ago (second trimester of 2011).
Specifically, among all provinces hit by the earthquake **Bologna** is the one characterized by the largest number of female craft entrepreneurs, i.e. 1.971 entrepreneurs, which represent 27,8% of overall women-owned enterprises located in the 110 communes hit by the earthquake. Bologna is followed by **Modena** (1.944 women-owned craft businesses, i.e. 27,4% of the total amount), **Reggio Emilia** (1.058 women-owned enterprises, i.e. 14,9% of the total amount), **Mantova** (913 women-owned enterprises, i.e. 12,9% of the total amount), **Ferrara** (780 women-owned enterprises, i.e. 11,0% of the total amount) and **Rovigo** (417 women-owned enterprises, i.e. 5,9% of the total amount).
Among the 6 provinces which are currently being considered, **Ferrara** is the one characterized by the highest increase in women-owned craft enterprises (2,9% growth) between the second trimester of 2011 and the second trimester of 2012, followed by **Bologna** (0,9% growth) and **Reggio Emilia** (0,7% growth). The situation has been stable in the provinces of Rovigo and Modena, as the number of female craft entrepreneurs has not changed. On the other hand, the number of women-owned crafts has decreased by 1,1%.
To conclude, female craft entrepreneurship has been on the rise in Emilia Romagna since the second trimester of 2011, notwithstanding the fact that this region was the most damaged by the earthquake. Interestingly, the growth rate of women-owned craft enterprises in that region has outreached the national average by 1,2 percentage points.

Women-owned enterprises in the renewable energy sector

Energy production from renewable sources has robustly increased over the last few years. This phenomenon has considerably changed the entrepreneurial landscape. In fact, many entrepreneurs have been adapting to the emerging market of renewable energies, while others start up new enterprises exclusively focused on this specific sector.

Within this context we have explored the involvement of female entrepreneurs in industrial sectors that might be potentially linked to the field of renewable energies. Such enterprises are listed in Ateco 2007 codes: manufacture of engines, electric generators and transformers (27.11), manufacture of turbines and turbogenerators, electric energy production (35.11), biomass, industrial and urban solid waste recycling (38.32.3), installation of electrical equipment in buildings (including maintenance and repair).

Based on the above mentioned list, as of the second trimester of 2012 we have estimated the presence of 5.400 women-owned enterprises (including crafts) operating in sectors that are potentially interested in renewable energies, i.e 5,3% of the overall number of relevant enterprises.

These enterprises (4.249 women-owned enterprises) mainly deal with the installation of electrical equipment (including maintenance and repair) and may be potentially involved in the installation of photovoltaic panels. Other sectors include electrical energy production (496 firms, i.e. 9,2% of the total amount), manufacture of engines, generators and electrical transformers (479 firms, i.e. 8,9% of the total amount), biomass, industrial and urban solid waste recycling (160 firms, i.e. 3,0% of the total amount), manufacture of turbines and turbogenerators (17 firms, i.e. 0,3% of the total amount).

Such women-owned enterprises have increased by 3,7% in the second trimester of 2012 compared to one year ago. In a longer term perspective, between the second trimester of 2009 and the second trimester of 2012 women-owned businesses involved in the renewable energy sector have increased by 16,8%. This figure outreaches the overall increase in women-owned enterprises (i.e. 0,5%) and shows that the green economy and renewable energy sources provide solid grounds for investment and interesting growth opportunities also to female entrepreneurship.

A break down of women-owned enterprises involved in the renewable energies sector by regions shows that 2441 enterprises are located in the **South** (45,2% of the total amount), 1.340 in the **North West** region (24,8%), 1.133 in the **central regions** (21,0%) and 858 (15,9%) in **North East**.