

Culture and leisure

Data on culture and leisure presented in this section provide an overview of the evolution of supply and demand for cultural goods and services in Italy, from the most traditional, such as museums, books and libraries to cinema and television, without overlooking other aspects more directly linked to leisure time, such as the sports.

The statistics are compiled in line with the conceptual and methodological framework used by Unesco and Eurostat. Data on the supply of cultural services are mainly drawn from administrative sources. In particular, the information on museums, art, libraries, theatre, music and sports, publishing and attendance of live events, and the audio-visual sector are taken from the main institutions operating in these areas. Of these, the most important sources of statistics are the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, the Italian Authors and Publishers Association (SIAE) and the Public Italian broadcasting company (RAI).

ISTAT started contributing to the collection, processing and publication of these figures as early as the 1930s. The Institute carries out yearly a survey of publishers, while cultural participation (museum attendance, theatre, music or sporting events, etc.) and leisure activities are surveyed on a household sample basis. The first surveys on leisure and reading took place between the end of the 1950s and the mid-1960s. Starting in the 1990s, the monitoring of these sectors became systematic with the launch of the multi-purpose survey system (see [Households](#)).

Publishing

From 1926 to 1950, data on publishing were drawn from the “Statistics of applications for licence to print Italian publications” established by the National central library in Florence, which was responsible in accordance with Law no. 432 dated 07th July 1910 for collecting a copy of every work published in Italy, which publishers were obliged to submit.

From 1951, however, those figures on publications were collected directly by ISTAT in an annual survey which aimed to describe their most important aspects. Information on individual works was recorded through the compilation of a specific form drawn up by the Provincial statistics offices at the District press offices which received new publications directly from publishers, as stated by law. The Central Statistical Institute then collected, checked and processed the information contained in the forms.

Initially, statistical surveys covered the first edition and the subsequent editions, while reprints were excluded. The classification of publications by subject included only nine basic categories (Arts; Language and literature; Religion, Philosophy, Law and history; Politics and economics; Mathematics, Physics and statistics; Natural sciences and medicine; Technical disciplines, Administration; Miscellaneous). Over the years, the list of subjects has gradually been extended in line with the evolution of the sector.

Starting in 1964, ISTAT gradually adopted Unesco’s recommendations on international harmonisation of publications statistics. This led to include works between 50 and 100 pages in the survey and, from 1967, to collect data directly from the publishing houses and to cover also reprints and “booklets” (between 5 and 48 pages).

Currently the survey covers the whole range of publications and, in addition to publishing houses in a narrow sense, also involves public and private authorities, study centres, associations, companies, freelancers and companies as well as all those who print books and publications as a secondary, even non-continuous, activity. Eligible units are all the “active publishers” in the current year, i.e. those who have published at least one literary work, as well as the “inactive publishers” who have

temporarily suspended their publishing activities. Publishers who declare to have ceased all productive activity or to have definitively terminated their publishing activity although continuing to operate under the same name are excluded.

To update the survey units reference base, ISTAT manages a computerised data archive of public and private bodies involved in publishing. Data in the archive are constantly updated on the basis of information provided by the official magazine of the Italian Publishers Association. A regular review is carried out in the last quarter of each year to include new publishers in the database. The information in the archive is corrected, updated and integrated on the basis of information provided by the publishers responding to the survey. Information recorded in the ISTAT archives include: publisher's name, VAT code, ISBN code¹, year of establishment, year of publishing start/ending, membership in publishing associations and number of works produced in the year of reference of the survey.

From 1951 to 1963, data cover publications of over 100 pages, and from 1964 to 1966 of over 50 pages. From 1967, in compliance with Unesco's guidelines² for the international harmonisation of statistics on publishing activities, publications of at least five pages were included in the survey. A publication is defined as a non-periodical printed work. The survey therefore does not include publications in a continuous series, under the same title, with progressive numbering or datation to mark the individual numbers of the series (magazines or similar). On the other hand, books published on a periodical basis with progressive numbering, sold through newsagents or other channels, are included. Official publications by the Government or other public authorities are also included, while propaganda products, when distributed free of charge, and texts whose literary, technical or scientific contents are marginal with respect to their advertising content are excluded. Catalogues, price lists, train timetables, telephone directories, calendars, etc. are also excluded, as well as musical works where the literary text is irrelevant, unbound geographical or topographical maps or charts in the form of atlases and sticker "books" without narrative text.

Information is gathered through a structured, self-filled questionnaire, returned to ISTAT by postal mail, email, the Internet, etc.. From 2000, the form can be filled on line through a protected and certified website, used by approximately half of respondents (46.8% in 2009).

The overall reference population is composed of approximately 3 thousand survey units.

Warnings for time series comparisons

- Data from 1951 onwards are not directly comparable with those recorded in the pre-war period, which did not correspond to coherent criteria and definitions.
- From 1951 to 1963 only works of more than 100 pages were recorded, thus excluding "booklets" (or publications of less than 100 pages), "minor productions" (single editions, songs and ballads, encyclicals, pastoral publications, religious books, judicial publications, legal agreements, industrial patents, financial reports, posters, programmes, catalogues, advertising and propaganda) in addition to "extracts from periodicals".
- From 1964 to 1966 works of 50 to 100 pages were included.
- From 1967, the survey included all publications of at least 5 pages. In compliance with Unesco's recommendations regarding statistics on literary production the following survey criteria and definitions were adopted, and are still in use:
 - the survey includes all works published during the year, in one of more volumes, of at least five pages. The works are divided into "booklets" (from 5 to 48 pages) and "books" (of at least 49 pages);
 - the survey excludes propaganda material, such as catalogues, price lists, advertising brochures, calendars and similar, in addition to special productions such as train timetables and telephone directories.

¹ Each work is associated with an ISBN code (International standard book number), an international unified book numbering system "which allows for the immediate and unequivocal identification of a title or edition of a title by a certain publisher" (see www.isbn.it). As from 31st December 2006 ISBN codes have been composed of three parts: the first relating to the publisher's linguistic area (978-88 for Italy), the second identifies the publisher and the third identifies the title. For the Italian linguistic area, the ISBN agency is the Italian Publishers' Association (AIE).

² Unesco recommendations on 19th November 1964 regarding literary production (also see *Recommandation révisée concernant la normalisation internationale des statistiques relatives à la production et à la distribution de livres, de journaux et de périodiques*, 1985).

Libraries

The figures on libraries refer to State libraries, which include the national, government and university libraries in addition to those associated with national monuments directly depending on the competent Ministry: the General department of libraries of the Ministry of Public Education from 1869 to 1929, the Ministry of National Education from 1929 to 1943, the Ministry of Cultural and Environmental Heritage from 1974 to 1997, the Ministry of Cultural Heritage from 1998 to 2008, indicated by Presidential Decree no. 417 dated 05th July 1995, modified by the Ministerial Decree issued on 12th June 2000.

State libraries are responsible for conserving and collecting Italian publications of national and local importance, acquiring foreign publications according to the specific nature of their collections and, in consideration of the requirements of their users, certifying their possessions, providing bibliographic information and ensuring the circulation of the documents. In particular, the central national libraries in Florence and Rome are responsible for collecting and documenting all the works that are printed in Italy.

Statistical information, available in time series from 1926 onwards, is collected directly by the Ministry of Cultural Heritage through a systematic survey conducted on an annual basis, with the collaboration of the competent central and local structures (departments, library authorities, etc.) as part of its functions to protect and enhance cultural heritage in all its forms.

The Ministry's surveys collect information on libraries' bibliographic material, staff, consultation and lending activities. Consultation refers to reading within the library itself. From 1999, running costs were also recorded, including expenses for functioning and maintenance, purchasing and conserving the bibliographic material, staff salaries and miscellaneous expenses. The figures published refer to libraries open to the public in the year of reference.

During 2007 a working group composed of representatives from the Ministry's Statistics Office, state Libraries and the Department for bibliographical heritage drew up a new survey form in order to update and integrate the definitions of the variables recorded, in line with new regulations. This form was adopted for surveys from 2009 onwards.

Over the years ISTAT has collaborated in the systematic publication of information on libraries collected by the Ministry, taking care of processing and publication of statistical data. ISTAT has also performed in the years 1927, 1935, 1950, 1955, 1965 and 1972 statistical surveys on public libraries (both state and private) in Italy. The field of observation in these surveys (excluding that in 1965) was, however, somewhat limited and some categories of library were not considered. Those surveys have therefore not been included in this section.

Warnings for time series comparisons

Data referring to State libraries were collected on a regular basis according to definitions and procedures that remained relatively coherent over time, making the data substantially comparable up until the 1960s. For the period following 1970 when reading data in the time series, the following instructions must be taken into consideration:

- until 1970 data on consultations refer to the number of works lent for reading in the year of reference; from 1971, however, the figures were obtained multiplying the documents lent for the number of times they were requested in the course of the reference year;
- in 1998, the consultation room in the State medical library in Rome was closed as unfit for use;
- for some months in 1998 the State library in Trieste suspended or limited consultation and lending activities, while the library was moved to new facilities;
- on 14th October 1999 the State medical library in Rome re-opened;
- during the month of August 2000, the National Vittorio Emanuele III library in Naples was closed for works needed to comply with current health and safety in the workplace regulations;

- in 1999 the partial closure of warehouse book deposits due to renovation work caused a reduction in the number of works lent by the Estense university library in Modena;
- from 28th November 1999 to 13th December 1999, the Braidense library in Milan stayed open to the public on Sundays;
- from 2000 to 2008 the Bologna university library was also included, as its transfer from the University of Bologna to the Ministry of Education, Universities and Research had not yet been concluded, in accordance with Ministerial Decree dated 12th June 2000;
- in 2001 the Farfa National monument library was closed for renovation, and re-opened to the public on 08th June 2005.

State museums and art galleries

The protection and conservation of the national artistic heritage gained importance following Italian unification, and from 1861 ministerial, central and local structures began to be established to perform these functions. In compliance with Royal Decree no. 3164 dated 31st December 1923, the care of archaeological and artistic heritage was entrusted to the General directorate for antiquities and fine arts at the Ministry of National Education, and the Superintendency of antiquities and fine arts, which took over the functions of direction and administration of classical monuments, archaeological sites and museums in the districts for which they were competent.

The first figures on “museums, galleries and art collections” refer to 1927 and were collected by the Central Statistical Institute of the Kingdom of Italy in collaboration with the Ministry of National Education. They are partial and cannot be compared with the results of subsequent surveys. In 1930 the Statistical Institute conducted a second comprehensive survey on “museums, galleries and collections of antiquity and art belonging to the State, in addition to other public bodies”, with reference to 1929.

After a long pause, the survey was repeated in the 1950s by the General directorate for antiquities and fine arts of the Public Education Ministry, which took care of collecting statistical information on antiquity and art institutes “belonging to the State” through its Superintendencies.

In the following years, data on the institutes “belonging to the State” and dependent on the Ministry and Superintendencies were collected on a regular basis by the competent ministerial departments (Public Education, Cultural Heritage from 1974, Cultural and Environmental Heritage, Cultural Heritage and Activities, etc.). They refer to museums and art collections (including national museums, museums of antiquity, archaeology, prehistory, etc.), galleries and art museums, monuments and archaeological sites (castles, palaces, cloistered villas, temples, amphitheatres, archaeological areas, etc.). The statistical reference units were State museum institutions open to the public in the survey years. Data were collected on a monthly basis and included the number of institutions open to the public in the year of reference (broken down by free access and entry fee), the size of the collection, the number of paying and non-paying visitors and the revenue from ticket sales. The institutes closed during the period as unfit for use, for renovation or lack of staff were excluded from the surveys.

Data on paid entrance to institutes were drawn from the number of tickets sold, while those for free institutes were estimated or taken from the attendance register or visitor counting devices. From 2001 the survey was performed through *online* updating of monthly figures by the Superintendency for the area, through the Information system set by the Ministry’s Statistics Office (<http://www.sistan.beniculturali.it/>).

In the years 1980, 1993 and 2007, ISTAT performed three census surveys on museums and similar institutes in Italy, collecting statistical data with reference to the years 1979, 1993, and 2006 respectively. A structured questionnaire was used during the surveys, designed to record descriptive details on the museums, including data on their legal position, the type of collections and assets, entrance methods, number of visitors, amount of material collected and the personnel working in each institution, etc.

Theatre, music and film shows

The figures relating to theatre, music, films, sporting events and various types of entertainment are collected by the Italian Authors and Publishers Association (SIAE) with a survey conducted in the national territory through their network of local offices.

The acquisition and production of information and figures is performed on the basis of events taxation. In fact, since 1921 when the “taxation rights on events” were established, later converted in 1972 (Presidential Decree no. 633 and 640/1972) in “event taxes”, the SIAE has been responsible for ascertaining and collecting taxation due on events, on behalf of the Ministry of Finance.

This activity was conducted on a regular basis up until 31st December 1999 when, following the abolition of the events tax (Legislative Decree no. 60 dated 26th February 1999) and its substitution with VAT and the new Entertainment tax (ISI), the SIAE partially changed its functions and data collection system. From 01st January 2000 to date, statistical data has been collected on the basis of a convention with the Ministry of Finance, which has attributed the SIAE with the task of cooperating in VAT collecting in the events sector, updating the Tax office and acquiring and submitting the figures on events to the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities³.

The statistics, available from 1936 onwards, are therefore processed according to the information collected for administrative purposes and concern, in particular, the number of events, the number of tickets sold and spending by spectators exclusively for events with paid access. Data on theatre and music shows refer to an extremely wide and heterogeneous range of events including prose, plays, classical or light music concerts (which form the most important part of the events held), and the number of tickets sold and spectator spending. Dialect theatre, classical and modern dance, jazz and dance concerts, operetta, musical comedies and reviews, puppets and marionette shows, variety shows, literary recitals and cultural events are also included, as well as occasional events held outside of traditional spaces.

Warnings for time series comparisons

Over the years SIAE modified the survey form and data collection methods several times. The time series are therefore not coherent over time due to the variations in the definitions, classifications and survey procedures adopted. The most difficult moment for continuity was in 1999 due to the elimination of the events tax: the figures collected from 2000 onwards, therefore, are not directly comparable to those previously recorded. The time series provided by SIAE is, in any case, the only one capable of providing a systematic and exhaustive description of the offer and demand in the entertainment sector, although it must be used with the necessary precautions.

The following are the main variations to be considered for time series comparisons:

- From 1966 to 1999 spending on “various entertainment” includes the public’s spending for dancing shows, entertainment devices, juke-boxes, flippers, pool and other types of mechanical and electric games, billiards, go-karts, bowling, televisions in public places, exhibitions and trade fairs, circus zoos, animal shows, nativity scenes, travelling shows, equestrian circuses, town square festivals, etc.
- From 1973, spending on “various entertainment” also includes the public’s spending on billiards following the introduction of the tax reform which imposed taxation on billiards.
- From 1981 spending on “various entertainment” also includes the public’s spending on events held in tourist villages.

³ Additional statistical information on the entertainment sector is collected and published by the Entertainment observatory, established by Law no. 163/1985 (art.5), as part of the General directorate for live entertainment. The Observatory is responsible for collecting figures and information relating to the performance of the sector in Italy, acquiring financial data on entertainment with particular reference to public, state, regional and local funding, and processing analyses and research on single issues to identify trends in the sector. A documentation centre is active at the Observatory with books and records on the subject of events, research and studies performed by Ministry consultants.

- From 2000 to 2003 the figures for “various entertainment” are not available.
- From 2004, the “various entertainment” category was redefined to exclude some forms of entertainment which were no longer widespread and to include other new forms. From this year onwards the category includes: dances and shows with either an orchestra or recorded music, travelling shows and attractions, including shows in entertainment and aquatic parks; exhibitions and shows; activities with a range of different forms, including open-air festivals and religious celebrations.
- From 1985 to 1999, the figures relating to sporting events include only A and B division football matches.
- From 2000 the figures relating to sporting events include both national and international football matches.
- From 2006 national events included football matches in C and lower divisions.
- In 2006, SIAE introduced important innovations in entertainment surveys: the values were processed using different definitions, aggregation categories and survey methods with respect to those adopted in previous years. In particular, in the years before 2006:
 - “concert activities” was included under “theatre shows”;
 - “circus” shows were not included under “theatrical activities”;
 - “band concerts” and “choral concerts” were not included under “classical concerts”;
 - the figures for “exhibitions and shows” were not recorded, including, in addition to cultural exhibitions (excluding museums), exhibition activities for commercial purposes, exhibitions of goods for sale and trade fairs;
 - at times “number of tickets sold” is recorded in place of “number of entrances”;
 - at times “number of days of shows” is recorded in place of “number of shows”;
 - “public’s spending”, which includes the amounts spent by spectators in order to access the entertainment venue by purchasing tickets and season tickets and which corresponds to the item “box office sales” in SIAE publications from 2006, also included any amounts paid by spectators for the use of obligatory services such as drinks and snacks at the bar during dance shows or concerts. From 2006, however, this revenue from obligatory services, together with all the other amounts spent by the public when attending entertainment events (costs for pre-sales of tickets, booking tables, wardrobe service, etc.) are recorded in detail and published separately and are not included in the values shown in the tables.
- From 2008 new criteria were introduced to survey the number of cinema shows with reference to individual showings. In previous years, however, if the organiser did not change the programme or the ticket price, one show corresponded to one day of programming.

Italian radio and television licence fee

Data relating to radio and television licence fee are recorded on an annual basis by the RAI Italian broadcasting company for administrative and management purposes, as part of the activities and functions as a public service provider. Figures for radio licence fee are available from 1936 up until 1990, the year in which figures on licence fee only for radio services were no longer published by ISTAT, given their now minimal levels.

The time series of data referring to television, however, starts in 1954, the year when the first television programme was produced. Data collected refer both to “ordinary licence fees”, i.e. those relating to the possession in the family home (in a private household) of one or more devices capable of receiving radio-television transmissions (art. 1 and 2 of Royal Legislative Decree no. 246 dated 21st February 1938 and subsequent modifications thereto), and “special licence fees” for the possession

of one or more devices capable of receiving radio-television transmissions outside the family home, in a commercial activity or for direct or indirect profit, for example in hotels, coffee shops, restaurants, offices, etc..

Regarding television licence fees, the reference to households – as specified in Ministry of Finance circular no. 15 in 1991 – is intended in the personal sense of household. According to art. 4 of Presidential Decree no. 223/1989, “household” means a group of people bound by marriage or relation, that live together and with habitual domicile within the same municipality. The possession of one or more TV devices within “cohabitation” on the other hand results in the obligation to pay for a special fee. The radio-television licence fee allows the holder of the licence and his/her family members to possess one or more television and radio devices in any residence. RAI is responsible for collecting and publishing the figures on the number of licence holders registered following payment of the licence fee both in absolute values and in relation to the number of inhabitants and the number of resident families. The figures used to calculate the values shown in the table are those for the number of families resident as per ISTAT records.

Warnings for time series comparisons

- From 1990 the figures on radio licence fee, due to their small number, were no longer published and are no longer available.
- From 1991 the television licence fee for black and white service and that for colour service were combined.
- From 1967 licence fee to radio services no longer included licences for car radios (Law no. 1235 dated 15th December 1967).
- From 1997 the licence fee for car radios was abolished and the radio licence fee for radio devices within private family homes was no longer obligatory (Law no. 449 dated 27th December 1997).
- From 2003 the rates of television licence holders per 1,000 inhabitants and the number of licence fees per 100 resident families refer exclusively to licences for private use.

Statistics on leisure activities

The first ISTAT surveys of activities performed by the population during leisure time date back to the 1950s, when the Institute conducted occasional surveys (1957, 1959, 1965, 1973) aimed at collecting information on the main aspects of the population’s quality of life, including some activities dedicated to free time (reading, radio, television, films and sport).

In the 1980s, the increased level of attention paid to social phenomena resulted in an intense amount of research producing four different surveys between 1982 and 1991 (1982, 1984⁴, 1985, 1987-1991) on different aspects, including leisure time. These were also occasional surveys which, similar to those conducted in the previous two decades, were not yet part of a systematic project monitoring social issues.

In the mid-1990s ISTAT began to dedicate greater attention to the subject. In 1993 the multipurpose system of surveys on families was launched, with a group of surveys designed to record in a systematic and ongoing manner the most important social issues, including leisure activities (see [Households](#)).

This new system included a set of questions on cultural participation. In particular, starting in 1993, the annual “Aspects of daily life” survey provided a basic set of social indicators on the main theme areas associated with the sphere of leisure time (use of radio and television, attendance of shows and entertainment outside the home, books and magazines, use of new technology, sports), areas that were later developed and extended from 1995 in the *ad hoc* five-year survey “Citizens and leisure”.

The first survey on leisure was the “Special survey on certain aspects of holidays and sport”,

⁴ In May 1984 ISTAT conducted the *Survey of reading and other aspects of leisure*. The questions were structured in a significantly different manner to both previous and subsequent surveys. Since the possibility of comparing the data with that in the time series is very limited, they do not appear in the data presented here.

conducted in 1959, in a sample survey combined with the survey on the work force through paper questionnaires and an interview with the head of the family or other qualified person. The survey units were families. The size of the sample was of nearly 75,000 families, for a total number of 1,374 sample municipalities. The survey aimed to collect data on the main aspects concerning the sports practiced by Italians. Interviewees were asked to indicate if they practiced sport and, if so, what type of sport. The sporting activities considered were amateur sports practiced on a regular basis by the members of the family interviewed.

In 1982 the “Survey on holidays and sport in Italy” was conducted together with that on the work force, followed by the “Sport and holidays” survey in 1985. The aim of the surveys was to find the number of people who practiced sport (in a regular and amateur manner), the type of sport practiced, how much time was dedicated to it, the type of organisation and the facilities used. The reasons for not practicing sport were also recorded for the first time. The survey was performed with a paper questionnaire, through an interview with the members of each family.

The survey units were families and the figures recorded regarded all the members of the family who practiced or did not practice sport. The survey sample in 1982 was composed of 975 municipalities and 28,560 families, while the 1985 survey involved 833 municipalities and more than 24,000 families.

Reading started to be observed as a use of leisure in 1965 with the “Special survey of reading in Italy”, repeated in 1973. This was also a sample survey combined with the survey of the work force. In both years the survey was performed using a paper questionnaire and an interview with the head of the family or other qualified person. In 1965, the figures recorded covered both books and magazines, the size of family libraries, the type of ownership of books (purchase, gift, borrowing) and the expenses paid for reading. In 1973 new questions were introduced and some of those already present in the 1965 survey were modified. The number of books read, the place of purchase and method of payment were recorded for the first time. New genres of book read were introduced in addition to those included in the 1965 survey (novels and various literature, childrens’ books and other genres), to include books about art, science and technical subjects. The sample size for both surveys was of more than 83,000 families for a total of more than 1,400 municipalities.

In 1987-1988 the first “Multipurpose survey” was launched (with the first cycle from December 1987 to May 1988 and the second cycle from June 1988 to November 1988), collecting information on the various activities performed by the population in leisure time. The survey was designed in such a way as to ensure that several phenomena could be covered jointly⁵. The information relating to the use of free time included the use of radio and television and reading books and newspapers in the first cycle and sport in the second cycle. The first cycle also recorded the possession of books by the family. The survey was conducted on a monthly basis and part of the information surveyed was changed every six months. The survey was conducted using samples with a survey unit of de facto families, i.e. a group of people living together and bound by marriage, relation, affinity, adoption, guardianship or affection, using a paper questionnaire. While in the past the questionnaire was entirely filled out by an interviewer, the new survey collected data both through direct interview (sport, radio, tv) and through the compilation of the questionnaire directly by the interviewee (reading). The survey was composed of 25,878 families for a total of 1,132 municipalities.

From 1993 onwards, estimates were drawn from the annual “Aspects of daily life” survey which was part of an integrated system of multipurpose surveys of families. The aim of the survey was to record fundamental information regarding the daily life of individuals and families. Among the various theme areas, the survey also covered cultural and sporting activities in leisure time. Furthermore, from 2001 data was also collected regarding the use of new technology: personal computers and the internet; these figures have not been included in this section because the number of observations is still very low.

In addition to the “Aspects of daily life” survey, the multipurpose system of surveys on families involves five-year studies on specific themes. Regarding leisure, every five years a “Citizens and leisure” survey is conducted (1995, 2000 and 2006) collecting information on the use of leisure and cultural participation by individuals and families. Some of the most important themes studied in this survey are the reading of books and magazines, the use of radio, television, cinema, theatres and museums, sport and the use of new technology. The survey is conducted in the same way as the other surveys in the multipurpose system.

⁵ For information on the multipurpose survey system, please refer to: [Households](#).

It is important to note that the figures drawn from the multipurpose survey refer exclusively to levels of use of cultural activities by the resident population in Italy. Therefore, the estimates obtained are not directly comparable with the figures on the levels of use collected through administrative sources (for example, the SIAE and the Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities). Furthermore, these latter figures refer to the number of tickets sold and entrances recorded (rather than individuals), and also take account of use by foreign tourists.

Warnings for time series comparisons

- Up until 1985, the survey unit was the family, while from 1987-1988 the survey unit changed to the de facto family.
- For the years 1959, 1965, 1973 and 1982, the questionnaire is combined with the survey on the work force. The 1985 survey on sport was combined with the survey on holidays.
- In all the surveys from 1959 onwards, sport refers to a sport practiced in an ongoing manner. Only in 1982 and 1985 did the survey refer to sport practiced on a regular basis.
- Regarding cultural activities, the surveys in 1959, 1965, 1973, 1982 and 1985 were conducted via direct interview. In 1987/1988, figures on sport and the use of radio and television were collected through direct interview while reading was recorded through direct compilation of the questionnaire by the interviewee. From 1993 onwards only sporting activities were surveyed through direct interview, while all other activities (attendance of shows and entertainment outside the home, use of radio and TV, reading books and newspapers) were recorded with a self-compiled questionnaire.
- In 1987-1988, the questions on the use of radio and television were presented to the population of age 6 and over, lowered to age 3 and over in 1993. To make the figures comparable, only those relating to the population of 6 and over are presented in the tables.
- In 1987-1988, 1993 and 1994 the questions on reading books and newspapers were presented to the population of age 11 and over, lowered to age 6 and over in 1995. To make the figures comparable, only those relating to the population of 11 and over are presented in the tables.