

### 18. Italy

The Italian space agency, *Agenzia Spaziale Italiana* (ASI), is headquartered in Rome with three centers in Matera, Trapani Malindi (Kenya), and the ASI Science Data Center (ASDC) in Frascati, near Rome. Italy is the third-largest contributor to the European Space Agency (after France and Germany), and is actively involved in all domains of space applications and space exploration. The Italian Space Agency budget is around EUR 700 million a year. The ten-year strategic plan (2010-20) earmarks EUR 7.2 billion in funding over the period, and should provide approximately the same level of spending annually. The main funding ministries include mainly the Ministry for Instruction, Universities and Research, which allocates EUR 600 million per year and the Ministry of Defence for dual missions such as COSMO-SkyMed and Athena-Fidus. In terms of expenditures, as shown in Figure 18.1, Italy's contribution to ESA represents the first budget line over the next decade, although the strategic plan aims to slightly rebalance expenditures in favour of the national programme and bilateral co-operation, reducing the Italian annual payment to ESA from EUR 400 million to around EUR 385 million (ASI, 2010).

Programme-wise, earth observation remains a priority with more than one-third of the overall budget allocated (Figure 18.2). Deep space missions and access to space technologies represent respectively 25% and 19% of the overall budget. Italy also aims to re-enter the satellite telecommunications sector, particularly via the development of public-private partnerships with commercial companies. Italy has more than 180 companies in the aerospace sector, representing some 35 000 employees (Figure 18.3). Besides the dual systems, Italy has also a dedicated military space programme.

#### Methodological notes

The budget data come from the Italian space agency's strategic plan (released in December 2010). The data for the aerospace industry's turnover and production have been calculated using monthly data from the Italian national statistics office *ConIstat Database*, while the number of aerospace companies and employees in Italy are based on data from the Istat Database. The industry classification used is "Manufacture of air and spacecraft and related machinery" (Nace 2.2), which may not cover all actors in the Italian aerospace and defense industry.

#### Sources

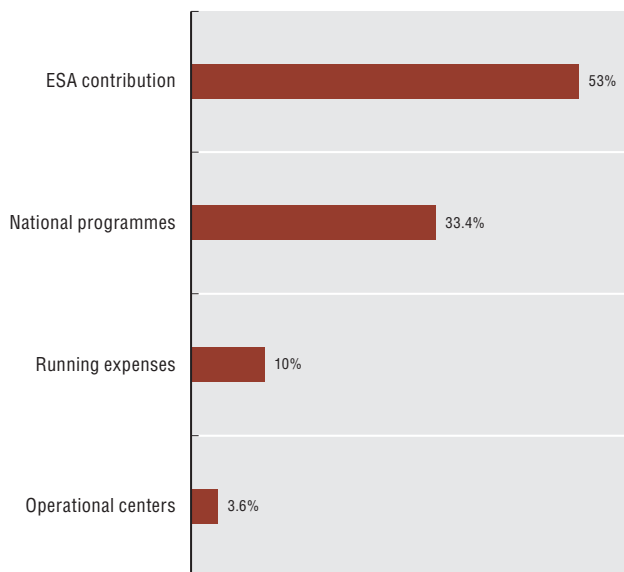
- Association of Italian Industries for Aerospace Systems and Defence (Associazione Industrie per l'Aerospazio i sistemi e la Difesa) (AIAD), [www.aiad.it](http://www.aiad.it).
- Association for Space-based Applications and Services (Associazione per I Servizi, le Applicazioni e le Tecnologie ICT per lo Spazio) (ASAS), [www.asaspazio.it](http://www.asaspazio.it).
- Italian Space Agency (ASI) (2010), *Strategic Plan 2010-2020*, Italian Space Agency, Rome, December.
- National Italian Institute of Statistics (Istat) Database (2010), [www.istat.it](http://www.istat.it).

#### Note

18.4: Figures up to May 2010.

### 18.1 Planned distribution of Italian space budget in the 2010-20 period

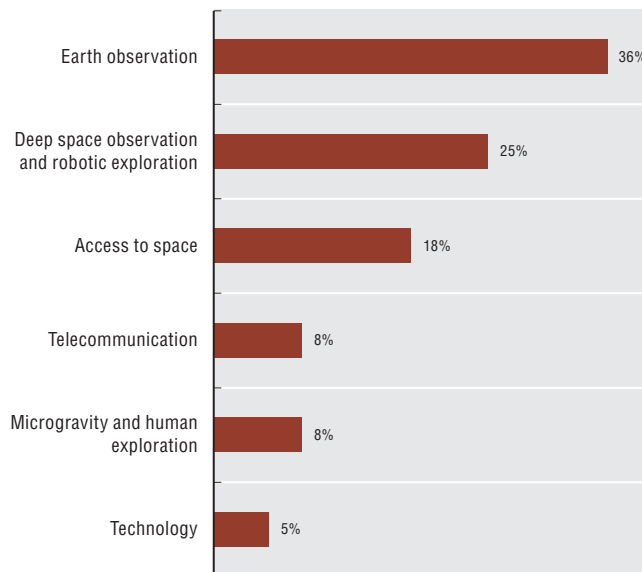
Percentage



Source: ASI (2010).

### 18.2 Planned Italian space programme's expenditures by sector in the 2010-20 period

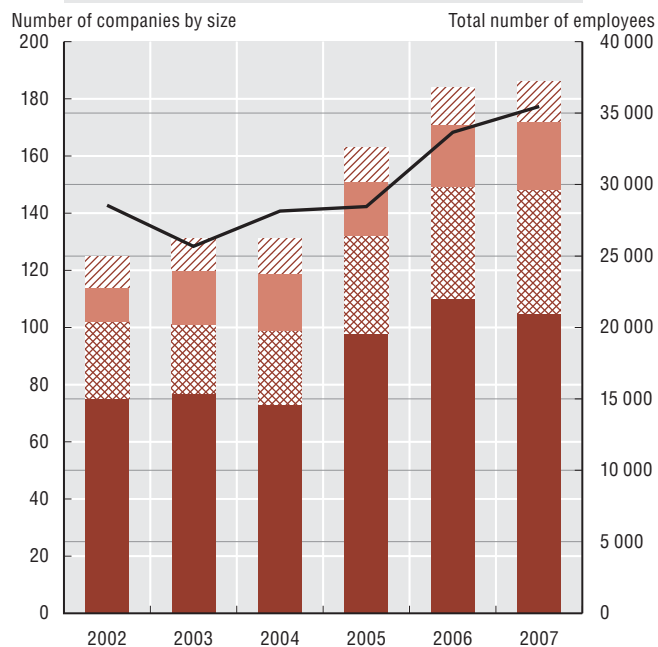
Percentage



Source: ASI (2010).

### 18.3 Number of aerospace companies and employees in Italy

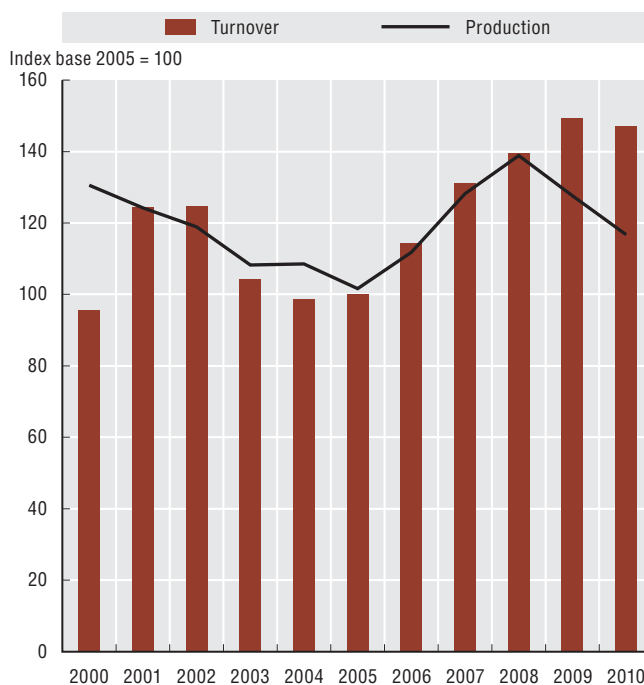
1-9 employees  
 10-49 employees  
 50-249 employees  
 250 or more  
 Employment



Source: OECD calculations based on ISTAT (2010).

### 18.4 Production and turnover in the Italian aerospace industry

ISIC category: "Manufacture of air and spacecraft and related machinery"



Source: OECD calculations based on ISTAT (2010).



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