ISBN 92-64-01788-7 Taxing Wages: 2003/2004 Special Feature: Broadening the Definition of the Average Worker © OECD 2005

# Italy

	Italy 2004							
	The tax/benefit posit	The tax/benefit position of single persons						
	Wage level (per cent of APW)	67	100	167	67			
	Number of children	none	none	none	2			
1.	Gross wage earnings	15122	22683	37805	15122			
2.	Standard tax allowances							
	Basic allowance							
	Married or head of family							
	Dependent children							
	Deduction for social security contributions and income taxes	7092	5806	3474	7092			
	Work-related expenses							
	Other							
	Total	7092	5806	3474	7092			
3.	Tax credits or cash transfers included in taxable income	0	0	0	0			
4.	Central government taxable income (1 - 2 + 3)	8030	16877	34331	8030			
5.	Central government income tax liability (exclusive of tax credits)	1847	3994	9301	1847			
6.	Tax credits							
	Basic credit	0	0	235	0			
	Married or head of family	0	0	0	0			
	Children	0	0	0	1063			
	Other							
	Total	0	0	235	1063			
	Central government income tax finally paid (5-6)	1847	3994	9066	784			
8.	State and local taxes	151	227	378	151			
9.	Employees' compulsory social security contributions							
	Gross earnings	1390	2085	3474	1390			
	Taxable income	1000		o / = /				
	Total	1390	2085	3474	1390			
	Total payments to general government (7 + 8 + 9)	3388	6305	12918	2325			
11.	Cash transfers from general governmen							
	For head of family	0	0	0	4077			
	For two children	0	0	0	1977			
	Total	0	0	0	1977			
	Take-home pay (1-10+11)	11734	16378	24887	14774			
	Employer's compulsory social security contributions	5002	7504	12506	5002			
14.	Average rates	10.00/	10.00/	25.0%	6.00/			
	Income tax	13.2%	18.6% 9.2%	25.0% 9.2%	6.2% 9.2%			
	Employees' social security contributions	9.2% 22.4%	9.2% 27.8%	9.2% 34.2%	9.2% 2.3%			
	Total payments less cash transfers							
	Total tax wedge including employer's social security contributions	41.7%	45.7%	50.5%	26.6%			
15.	Marginal rates	27 10/	1 1 10/	15 60/	27 10/			
	Total payments less cash transfers: Principal earner	37.1%	44.1%	45.6%	37.1%			
	Total payments less cash transfers: Spouse	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a. 52.7%			
	Total tax wedge: Principal earner	52.7%	58.0%	59.1%				
	Total tax wedge: Spouse	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.			

	Italy	2004							
	The tax/benefit pos	ition of marri	ed couples						
	• Wage level (per cent of APW		•	100-67	100-33				
	Number of childre		2	2	none				
1.	Gross wage earnings	22683	30244	37805	30244				
2.	Standard tax allowances								
	Basic allowance								
	Married or head of family								
	Dependent children								
	Deduction for social security contributions and income taxes	5806	13367	12898	13367				
	Work-related expenses								
	Other								
	Tota	al 5806	13367	12898	13367				
3.	Tax credits or cash transfers included in taxable income	0	0	0	0				
4.	Central government taxable income (1 - 2 + 3 )	16877	16877	24907	16877				
5.	Central government income tax liability (exclusive of tax credits)	3994	3994	5841	3994				
6.	Tax credits								
	Basic credit	0	0	0	0				
	Married or head of family	497	0	0	0				
	Children	1033	1033	1033	0				
	Other								
	Tota	al 1530	1033	1033	0				
7.	Central government income tax finally paid (5-6)	2465	2961	4808	3994				
8.	State and local taxes	227	227	378	227				
9.	Employees' compulsory social security contributions								
	Gross earnings	2085	2779	3474	2779				
	Taxable income								
	Tota	al 2085	2779	3474	2779				
10.	Total payments to general government (7 + 8 + 9)	4776	5967	8660	7000				
11.	Cash transfers from general government								
	For head of family								
	For two children	1339	465	279	0				
	Tota	al 1339	465	279	0				
12.	Take-home pay (1-10+11)	19246	24741	29424	23244				
13.	Employer's compulsory social security contributions	7504	10005	12506	10005				
14.	Average rates								
	Income tax	11.9%	10.5%	13.7%	14.0%				
	Employees' social security contributions	9.2%	9.2%	9.2%	9.2%				
	Total payments less cash transfers	15.2%	18.2%	22.2%	23.1%				
	Total tax wedge including employer's social security contributions	36.2%	38.5%	41.5%	42.2%				
15.	Marginal rates								
	Total payments less cash transfers: Principal earner	44.1%	44.1%	44.1%	44.1%				
	Total payments less cash transfers: Spouse	27.3%	9.2%	37.1%	9.2%				
	Total tax wedge: Principal earner	58.0%	58.0%	58.0%	58.0%				
	Total tax wedge: Spouse	45.4%	31.8%	52.7%	31.8%				

The national currency is the euro (EUR). In 2004, EUR 0.81 was equal to USD 1 (average of eleven months daily exchange rates). In that year the Average Production Worker earned EUR 22 683 (Secretariat estimate).

## 1. Personal income tax

## 1.1. Central government income tax

#### 1.11. Tax unit

Spouses are taxed separately.

#### 1.12. Tax allowances and tax credits

- 1.121. Standard tax credits
- Dependent spouse: Provided that the spouse's income does not exceed EUR 2 840.51 a tax credit is allowed, according to income brackets as follows:

Income brackets (EUR)	Tax credit (EUR)
0-15 494.00	546.18
15 494.01-30 987.00	496.60
30 987.01-51 646.00	459.42
51 646.01 and over	422.23

• *Children:* A tax credit, that varies according to the number of children, is granted to parents. If the spouse is not dependent, the tax credit is shared between the parents according to a percentage agreed to by them. If the spouse is dependent the tax credit is due in full to only one parent. The calculations for this Report assume that the spouse's share of the credit can vary depending upon the tax liability up to 100 per cent.

### Total tax credit allowed to parent with dependent children<sup>1</sup>

1 child	EUR 516.46 (income up to EUR 36 151.98)
	EUR 303.68 (income up to EUR 51 646)
	EUR 285.08 (income over EUR 51 646)
2 children	EUR 1 032.92 (income up to EUR 41 316.55)
	EUR 640.42 (income up to EUR 51 646)
	EUR 570.16 (income over EUR 51 646)
3 children	EUR 1 549.38 (income up to EUR 46 481.12)
	EUR 977.14 (income up to EUR 51 646)
	EUR 855.24 (income over EUR 51 646)
4 children	EUR 2 065.84

1. The total tax credit is given as the sum of the credits allowed for each child (these may be different amounts depending on the level of income of the parents).

- If the taxpayer is a single parent the law provides for a tax credit for the first child equal to the most favourable between the credit for the dependent spouse and the child credit. For the other children the single parent is granted the ordinary child tax credit (see table above).
- Other members of the family: A tax credit of EUR 142.54 (up to EUR 51 646) or EUR 133.25 (over EUR 51 646) is granted for other dependents, provided the dependant's income does not exceed EUR 2 840.51. A dependent is deemed to be any person entitled to maintenance allowances (e.g., parents, mother and father-in-law) under civil law.
- Tax allowances: A reform of the personal income tax (IRPEF) has started with the 2003 Financial Law which introduces a "no tax area" that results from the calculation of income related tax allowances. This set of new measures leads to tax savings for low/middle income earners.
  - The standard allowance ("no tax area") is EUR 7 500.00.
  - The actual allowance granted to each individual depends on the value of a ratio that is defined as a function of net income and represented by the following formula:
    (26 000 + 7 500 net income)/26 000.

The way in which the actual allowance is to be computed is illustrated in the following table:

Ratio > or = 1	Actual allowance = standard allowance
0 < ratio < 1	Actual allowance = 7 500.00 * ratio
Ratio < or = 0	Actual allowance = 0

• Tax credits for employees: The 2003 Financial Law provides that the tax credit for employees varies with income as follows:

Income	Tax credit
From EUR 27 000.00 to EUR 29 500.00	EUR 130.00
From EUR 29 500.01 to EUR 36 500.00	EUR 235.00
From EUR 36 500.01 to EUR 41 500.00	EUR 180.00
From EUR 41 500.01 to EUR 46 700.00	EUR 130.00
From EUR 46 700.01 to EUR 52 000.00	EUR 25.00

- Social security contributions due by law.
- 1.122. Main non standard tax allowances and tax credits
- Other compulsory contributions.
- Periodical benefits allowed to the spouse fixed by judicial authority.
- Charitable donations to certain religious institutions (up to EUR 1 032.91).
- Medical and assistance expenses incurred by handicapped persons.
- Expenses to restore one's own residence at 36 per cent of full expenses, apportioned into 5 or 10 annual allowances of the same amount.
- Credit for leaseholders of principal residence (a sum of EUR 495.80 for income up to EUR 15 493.71 and a sum of EUR 247.90 for income up to EUR 30 987.41).

As to the following expenses, a tax credit of 19 per cent of each incurred expense is allowed:

- Mortgage loan interest (up to EUR 1 807.60 or EUR 3 165.20 according to circumstances).
- Most medical expenses that exceed EUR 129.11.
- Payments to insurance funds up to EUR 1 291.14.
- Expenses to attend secondary school and university courses; in case such courses are private, the expenses allowed cannot exceed those foreseen for State courses.
- Funeral charges up to EUR 1 549.37.
- Expenses for disabled persons.
- Donations to political parties (ranging from EUR 51.65 to EUR 103 291.38).
- Payments to foundations (up to EUR 2 065.83).

## 1.13. Tax schedule

The following tax schedule is applied to taxable income:

Bracket (EUR)	Rate (%)
Up to 15 000	23
Over 15 000 up to 29 000	29
Over 29 000 up to 32 600	31
Over 32 600 up to 70 000	39
Over 70 000	45

## 1.2. State and local taxes

The "no tax area" is not taken into account for determining taxable income for the local surcharges. The local surcharges are computed with reference to the old definition of the tax base (taxable income without consideration to the "no tax area" allowance); these surcharges are, however, due only by taxpayers who pay the IRPEF.

#### Regional surcharge tax

This surcharge tax has been introduced in 1997. The tax is levied by each region on resident taxpayers' total taxable income at a discretionary rate, which must fall within an established range. As from the year 2000 this range is 0.9 per cent – 1.4 per cent. For the year 2002 only seven regions have applied rates higher than 0.9 per cent. As from the tax year 2003 Regions are not permitted further increases in the rates. The figure given in the country tables under the heading "State and local tax" includes the Regional surcharge tax paid in the Region where the most representative city (Rome) is localized (Lazio – rate 0.9 per cent).

#### Local surcharge tax

This surcharge tax has been introduced in 1999. The tax may be levied by each local government at an initial rate that cannot exceed 0.2 per cent. If the tax is levied, the local government can increase the initial rate, on a yearly basis, up to a maximum of 0.5 per cent. Each yearly increase cannot exceed 0.2 per cent.

The figure given in the Country Tables under the heading "State and local tax" includes the local surcharge tax paid in the most representative city (Rome – rate 0.2 per cent).

## 2. Compulsory social security

#### 2.1. Employee contributions

- Rate and ceiling:
  - The average rate charged to an employee is 9.19 per cent on earnings up to EUR 37 883.
  - The average rate charged to an employee is 10.19 per cent on earnings over EUR 37 883 and up to EUR 82 401.
  - For earnings exceeding EUR 82 401 the employee pays a fixed amount given by (0.0919 × 37 883) + 0.1019 × (82 401 – 37 883).
- Distinction by marital status or sex:
  - None.

#### 2.2. Employer contributions

• Contributions taken into account for this Report amount to 33.08 per cent that is the rate applied to earnings up to EUR 82 401. For earnings exceeding EUR 82 401 the employer pays a fixed amount given by 0.3308 × 82 401.

## 3. Universal cash transfers

## 3.1. Amount for spouse and for dependent children

Cash transfers are granted for family income that is:

- composed of at least 70 per cent wage and/or pension income;
- below a given threshold set by law each year.

Family income is the sum of the incomes of all individuals comprising the family.

Cash transfers are determined each year by INPS (Istituto Nazionale di Previdenza Sociale), the public body that collects and manages the social security contributions for dependent workers for the period beginning in July of that year (t) to June in the following year (t + 1) and relate to family income earned in the previous year (t – 1).

As such, the transfers granted in any given year t are determined by the family income in the previous two years. The following table provides a description of the calculations:

Transfer granted in year t	Relevant amounts as given in INPS tables
January-June	The amount of cash transfers is that given in the INPS table published in July t – 1. The transfers are granted with reference to family income earned in year t – 2.
July-December	The amount of cash transfers is that given in the INPS table published in July t. The transfers are granted with reference to family income earned in year t – 1.

For the purposes of *Taxing Wages*, the cash transfers that are calculated represent those amounts that would be received by the family based on their incomes for that year even though these amounts would only begin to be paid in July of the following year. Given that the INPS tables based on the income for 2004 are not available, the calculations for this year rely on the INPS tables for 2003 income.

#### 4. Main changes

No changes have been introduced with respect to personal income tax regime entered into force in 2003.

## 5. Memorandum item

## 5.1. Identification of an APW

The data refer to the annual earnings of production workers in the manufacturing sector.

## 5.2. Contributions by employers to private pension, health, etc. schemes

In addition to the mandatory social security contributions employers may pay contributions to private pension schemes (currently about forty pension funds). Employers contributions are included in the taxable income of the employee.

Employees may also choose to contribute to the pension funds with all or part of the retirement allowance that is otherwise withheld by the employers. In this case the employee can deduct from his taxable income an amount equal to twice the amount of the contribution paid to fund.

Employers contributions to private health insurance schemes are not included in the taxable income of the employee up to the limit of 3 615.20 euros.

## 2004 Parameter values

Average earnings/yr	Ave_earn	22 683	Secretariat estimat	te		
Tax schedule	Tax_sch	0.23	15 000.00			
		0.29	29 000.00			
		0.31	32 600.00			
		0.39	70 000.00			
		0.45	999 999 999.99			
Standard tax allowances	b_all	7 500.00				
Tax credits	b_an	7 000.00				
Employment	emp_flat	0				
Linployment	emp_add	0	0.00			
	emp_auu	27 000.01	130.00			
		29 500.01	235.00			
		36 500.01	180.00			
		41 500.01	130.00			
		46 700.01	25.00			
		52 000.01	0.00			
Spouse	Spouse_cred	0	546.18			
		15 494.01	496.60			
		30 987.01	459.42			
		51 646.01	422.23			
		999 999 999.99	0			
limit	Sp_crd_lim	2 840.51				
Child credit	Child_credit_m	0	516.46	1 032.92	1 549.38	2 065.84
		36 151.98	303.68	1 032.92	1 549.38	2 065.84
		41 316.55	303.68	640.41	1 549.38	2 065.84
		46 481.12	303.68	640.41	977.14	2 065.84
		51 645.7	285.08	570.16	855.24	2 065.84
	Child_credit_sp	0	546.18	1 062.64	1 579.1	2 095.56
	onnu_oroun_op	15 494.01	516.46	1 032.92	1 549.38	2 065.84
		30 987.01	516.46	1 032.92	1 549.38	2 065.84
		36 151.98	459.42	1 032.92	1 549.38	2 065.84
		41 316.55	459.42	796.15	1 549.38	2 065.84
		46 481.12	459.42	796.15	1 132.88	2 065.84
		51 645.7	422.23	707.31	992.39	2 065.84
Regional and local tax	Reg_rt	0.011				
Social security contributions	SSC_sch	0.0919	37 883.00			
		0.1019	82 401.00			
		0.00	999 999 999.99			
Employer contributions	Empr_sch	0.3308	82 401.00			
		0.00	999 999 999.99			
Cash transfers:						
family allowance sched. (t)	trans_sch_m	0	0.00	130.66	250.48	
married couple		11 989.56	0.00	114.65	220.53	
		14 836.01	0.00	92.45	190.57	
		17 681.91	0.00	65.59	158.04	
		20 526.70	0.00	43.90	111.55	
		23 373.71	0.00	25.82	81.60	
		26 219.59	0.00	15.49	57.33	
		29 066.60	0	15.49	38.73	
		31 911.40		12.91	25.82	
			0			
		34 757.30	0	12.91	25.82	
		37 602.64	0	12.91	23.24	
		40 450.21	0	0.00	23.24	
		43 296.09	0	0.00	23.24	
		46 142.56	0	0.00	0.00	
		48 988.44	0	0.00	0.00	
		48 988.44 51 835.46	0	0	0.00	
		48 988.44				

family allowance sched. (t)	trans_sch_s	0	99.68	184.89	412.13
single parent		13 886.81	79.53	164.75	372.37
		16 733.28	54.23	136.34	332.60
		19 578.06	23.24	102.26	289.73
		22 424.52	20.66	73.85	230.34
		25 271.54	20.66	48.55	190.57
		28 117.43	0	34.09	159.07
		30 963.31	0	34.09	136.34
		33 809.23	0	28.41	119.30
		36 654.56	0	28.41	119.30
		39 502.13	0	28.41	102.26
		42 348.58	0	0	102.26
		45 193.36	0	0	102.26
		48 040.38	0	0	0
		50 886.82	0	0	0
		53 733.83	0	0	0
		56 579.73	0	0	0
		999 999 999.99	0	0	0

#### 2004 Tax equations

The equations for the Italian system in 2004 are mostly repeated for each individual of a married couple. But the spouse credit is relevant only to the calculation for the principal earner and any child credit which the spouse is unable to use is transferred to the principal. This is shown by the Range indicator in the table below.

The functions which are used in the equations (Taper, MIN, Tax etc) are described in the technical note about tax equations. Variable names are defined in the table of parameters above, within the equations table, or are the standard variables "married" and "children". A reference to a variable with the affix "\_total" indicates the sum of the relevant variable values for the principal and spouse. And the affixes "\_princ" and "\_spouse" indicate the value for the principal and spouse, respectively. Equations for a single person are as shown for the principal, with "\_spouse" values taken as 0.

Line in country table and intermediate steps	Variable name	Range	Equation
1. Earnings	earn		
2. Allowances:	tax_al1	В	SSC
	tax_al2	В	(earn>0) * MIN(earn - tax_al1 , (b_all * MIN(1, (MAX((1-(earn - tax_al1 - b_all)/26000), 0)))) )
3. Credits in taxable income	taxbl_cr	В	0
4. CG taxable income	tax_inc_xal2	В	earn-tax_al1
	tax_inc	В	earn-tax_al1-tax_al2
5. CG tax before credits	CG_tax_excl	В	Tax(tax_inc, tax_sch)
6. Tax credits			
Employment	emp_cr	В	MIN((emp_flat+VLOOKUP(tax_inc_xal2, emp_add, 2)), CG_tax_excl)
Spouse credit	spouse_cr	Р	IF(Married=1, IF(tax_inc_xal2_spouse>Sp_crd_lim, 0, VLOOKUP(tax_inc_princ, Spouse_cred, 2)), 0)
Child credit	child_cr_princ	Ρ	IF(Married=1, (Children>0)*VLOOKUP(tax_inc_xal2, Child_credit_m, 1+Children)*(1-child_crpct_spouse), (Children>0)*VLOOKUP(tax_inc_xal2, Child_credit_sp, 1+Children))
	child_crfull_spouse	S	(Children>0)*(spouse_cr=0)*Married*VLOOKUP(tax_inc_xal2_ spouse, Child_credit_m, 1+Children)
	child_crpct_spouse	S	IF(child_crfull_spouse>0, MIN(1, (CG_tax_excl_spouse- emp_cr_spouse)/child_crfull_spouse), 0)
	child_cr_spouse	S	child_crfull_spouse*child_crpct_spouse
Total	tax_cr	В	MIN(emp_cr+spouse_cr+child_cr, CG_tax_excl)
7. CG tax	CG_tax	В	Positive(CG_tax_excl-tax_cr)
8. State and local taxes	reg_rt	В	IF(CG_tax>0;taxable_income*reg_rt;0)
9. Employees' soc security	SSC	В	Tax(earn, SSC_sch)
11. Cash transfers		J	((Children+Married)>0)*12*VLOOKUP(earn_total, IF(Married, trans_sch_m, trans_sch_s), 1+Married+Children)
13. Employer's soc security	SSC_empr	В	Tax(earn, Empr_sch)

Key to range of equation:

B calculated separately for both principal earner and spouse.

P calculated for principal only (value taken as 0 for spouse calculation).

J calculated once only on a joint basis.

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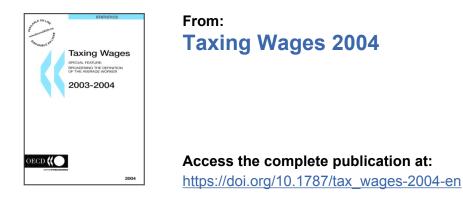
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