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Summary

1.	Introduction.....	3
2.	Main findings.....	3
	House prices.....	3
	House Sales	3
	Mandates to sell.....	3
	Negotiations and selling times	4
	Financing house purchases.....	4
	Rentals.....	4
	Outlook for the agents' own markets	4
	Outlook for the national housing market.....	4
	Appendix A: Methodological notes	5
	Appendix B: Tables	11
	Appendix C: The questionnaire	27

This publication contains the main findings of the quarterly Italian housing market survey conducted jointly by the Bank of Italy, Tecnoborsa and Agenzia delle Entrate. The report has been prepared by Marco Bottone, Tatiana Cesaroni, Michele Loberto for the Bank of Italy (in collaboration with Daniela Falcone for editorial assistance); Giampiero Bambagioni and Ettore Troiani for Tecnoborsa; Maurizio Festa and Gianni Guerrieri for Agenzia delle entrate (Osservatorio del mercato immobiliare).

The data were collected exclusively for the purpose of economic analysis and have been handled and processed in aggregate form, in full compliance with Italy's law on the treatment of personal information.

We would like to thank all the agencies that agreed to take part.

THE ITALIAN HOUSING MARKET SURVEY

January 2016

The housing market continued to pick up gradually in the fourth quarter of 2015. The share of estate agents reporting a fall in prices diminished again and for the first time since spring 2011 was smaller than the share reporting no change. The percentage of agents that had sold at least one property increased as demand conditions turned favourable. Optimism about short-term developments in agents' own market improved, mainly in response to more positive expectations regarding price trends and the outlook for new mandates to sell. Over the medium-term horizon (two years) as well there is greater optimism about the prospects for the Italian market.

1. Introduction

The interviews for the Italian Housing Market Survey were carried out between 8 and 29 January 2016. A total of 1,247 estate agents handling third parties' property took part (Table 1), providing information on house sales and lettings and related prices in the quarter October-December 2015 as well as on the short-term outlook for the sector. The survey looks only at purchases and sales conducted through an estate agent, which are estimated to represent about half of the total. The main findings are summarized below. The appendices contain the note on methodology, the statistical tables and the questionnaire used.

2. The main findings

House prices

The proportion of estate agents that reported selling prices were falling continued to diminish in the fourth quarter of 2015; at 46.4 per cent they were in a minority for the first time since spring 2011 (compared with 67.6 per cent in the survey a year ago). The majority of agents (52.3 per cent - up from 31.6 per cent) judged prices to be stable (Table 2 and Figure 1). The improvement reflects above all a trend under way in urban areas and in the north of the country, where just over 40 per cent of the replies indicated a decline in house prices.

Sales

The proportion of estate agents that sold at least one property rose to 77.8 per cent, from 71.6 per cent in the previous survey (Table 3). During the quarter the majority of properties handled by estate agents had a surface area of up to 140 sq.m., were fit for habitation or required partial modernization, and had a low energy efficiency rating (Table 5).

Demand conditions remained positive (Table 6). The balance between the share of estate agents reporting an increase in potential buyers and the share reporting a decrease was 15.6 percentage points; this is some 10 points higher than in the October survey, which is usually affected by seasonal factors (the balance was -16.2 points in the January 2015 survey).

Mandates to sell

The balance between the replies indicating an increase and a decrease in the stock of mandates to sell narrowed to 6.4 percentage points from 18.0 points in October and 20.1 points a year earlier (Table 6). The balance for new mandates to sell was virtually stable at 10.5 points. Estate agents were of the opinion that the withdrawal of mandates was mainly due to the gap between asking prices and offers (Table 7). In fact, the percentage reporting that sellers considered the offers received to be too low was more or less unchanged at 59.8 per cent, while the share reporting that buyers thought asking prices were too high was up from 58.6 per cent in the previous survey to 61.1 per cent. The proportion of estate agents that attributed the loss of mandates to buyers' difficulties in obtaining a mortgage was generally stable (28.4 per cent against 35.7 per cent a year earlier).

Negotiations and selling times

The average discount on the initial asking price fell slightly, to 14.2 per cent, bringing the total decrease since January 2015 to about 2 percentage points (Table 8). The average time between the start of a mandate to sell and the sale of the property was virtually unchanged at 9.1 months, compared with 9.4 months reported in October (Table 9).

Financing house purchases

Some 68.5 per cent of house purchases were financed with a mortgage, compared with 65.7 per cent in the October survey (Table 9). The loan-to-value ratio held steady at 64.7 per cent.

Lettings

The percentage of estate agents who reported that they had let at least one property in the fourth quarter was slightly lower than in the previous survey, amounting to 82.4 per cent against 84.8 per cent (Table 10). This was still almost 1.5 percentage points higher than in the second quarter of 2014. The balance between the replies indicating an increase and a decrease in rents narrowed to -30.2 percentage points from -32.2 points in last October's survey and -50.6 points in January 2015; by contrast the share of responses indicating no change in rents was stable at 63.1 per cent. For the current quarter the balance between expectations of an increase and a decrease in rents has narrowed by about 7 percentage points, to -13.6, while 81 per cent of estate agents (up from 78 per cent) expect rents to remain stable.

The average discount on rental prices compared with the initial asking price was unchanged at 6.3 per cent (Table 11). The balance between the replies indicating an increase and a decrease in new mandates to let widened from -7.7 percentage points in the previous quarter to -10.9 points. Replies that new mandates are stable continued to predominate, however, accounting for 63.5 per cent of estate agents.

Outlook for agents' own market

Estate agents' opinions regarding the short-term outlook for their own market showed an improvement. The balance between positive and negative expectations for the current quarter widened to 15.9 percentage points from 7.4 points in the previous survey (Table 12 and Figure 2). This trend was common to all the main geographical areas. The outlook for new mandates to sell was also better than in the previous survey: the balance rose almost 4 percentage points to 16.7. The share of estate agents predicting a drop in prices in the current quarter decreased further, from 42.6 to 35.2 per cent (Table 12 and Figure 1), while the percentage expecting prices to hold stable rose from 56.1 to 62.5 per cent. The more optimistic outlook concerning falling prices was most evident in urban areas and in the North East and Centre of the country.

Outlook for the domestic property market

For the first time since the third quarter of 2010 the balance of opinions regarding the short-term outlook for the domestic market was markedly positive, going from virtually nil in the previous survey to 8.1 percentage points (Table 13). Expectations for the medium-term (two years) are increasingly optimistic: the share of estate agents forecasting an improvement has risen to 55.9 per cent from 53.1 in October and the share expecting the market to hold stable is down; expectations of a deterioration have fallen sharply, from 12.1 to 10.5 per cent.

Appendix A:
Methodological notes

METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

A1. Composition of the population, sample and sample design

Since January 2009 the Bank of Italy has conducted, in collaboration with Tecnoborsa, a quarterly survey of real-estate agents. Starting from October 2010, the Property Market Observatory, a section of the Revenue Agency, joined the venture ³.

The data are collected by the company Questlab Srl in the month following the end of the calendar quarter (i.e. in January, April, July and October). The interviews for this edition, which refers to the fourth quarter of 2016 were conducted between 8 and 29 January 2016. Of the 4,115 estate agents interviewed, 1,247 took part in the survey,⁴ representing a response rate of 32.5 per cent.

The reference universe comprises the estate agencies who work on behalf of third parties. The information on the distribution of the population (updated to 2013), taken from Istat, is provided by class of employee and province.

The sampling design is stratified, with a total of 34 strata made up as follows:

- a) 15 Italian towns with a population of 250,000 or more⁵;
- b) 15 areas around the towns at letter a), forming the hinterland⁶;
- c) 4 national macro-areas (North-West; North-East; Centre; South and Islands), excluding the 30 strata at letters a) and b).

The number of units in each stratum is selected according to several criteria: the basic number is proportional to the number of transactions recorded in each unit (based on local data provided by the Property Market Observatory). Each stratum contains a minimum number of units so that the sample size is large enough to ensure that the standard errors of the main variables are acceptable. Finally, further units are added to the sample for the metropolitan areas to take account of greater variations in the phenomena surveyed.

A2. Composition of the sampling list

The lists suitable for use are lists of real-estate agents and property agencies. Since the population available from Istat is based on property agencies as businesses, when composing the list of agents to include in the sample we took care to ensure that it contained only one real-estate agent per agency. The following lists were used to build the sample:

- d) professional real-estate agents belonging to the *Federazione Italiana Agenti Immobiliari Professionali* (FIAIP) (about 12,000);
- e) real-estate agents registered with one of the property exchanges (about 200);
- f) real-estate agents correspondents of the real estate market observatory (OMI);
- g) list of companies operating in the real estate brokerage on third party assets, extracted from lists of Chambers of commerce (in total about 45,000 units).

Due to observed difficulties⁷ using the register of the Chambers of Commerce, exhaustive in principle, the

³ Pursuant to Article 23-quarter of Law Decree 95/2012, the Revenue Agency has incorporated the Territorial Agency and therefore also the Property Market Observatory that was part of it.

⁴ Agents involved in real estate brokerage on third party assets. The 56 firms operating on own assets, (about 4.3 per cent of the sample) were excluded from the estimates.

⁵ Bari, Bologna, Catania, Florence, Genoa, Messina, Milan, Naples, Padua, Palermo, Rome (including Ostia Lido), Turin, Trieste, Venice (including Mestre), Verona.

⁶ An “urban area” is the area of a town with at least 250,000 inhabitants and its hinterland. A “metropolitan area” is an urban area with a city or large town of at least 500,000 inhabitants (Genoa, Milan, Naples, Palermo, Rome and Turin). Every urban or metropolitan area has its own Local Labour System (Istat, I sistemi locali del lavoro 1991, Rome, 1997), which is defined as “the unit of territory identified by a set of neighbouring towns linked by daily commuting for the purpose of work”; i.e. they are groups of towns that constitute homogenous labour markets. Since administrative constraints are not considered, a local labour system can incorporate towns belonging to different provinces or regions from the main town, and is identified from information on commuting obtained from the general population census.

extraction is mainly based on lists a) to c) and supplemented with that register, in order to overcome any deficiencies with respect to the desired number of estate agents and to minimize distortions that may be typical of lists maintained by professional associations.

A3. Weighting

The weighting procedure is composed of two steps. In the first step the original design strata are used (see par. A1). Each unit in the sample is assigned an initial weight, given by the ratio of number of firms in the stratum cell to number of firms in the target population. Let h be the general stratum cell and, within it, N_h the number of firms in the target population and n_h the sample size.⁸ The first-step weight of each firm in stratum h is therefore:

$$(1) \quad w_h^{(0)} = \frac{N_h}{n_h}$$

By construction, the sum of the weights of each cell therefore gives the size of the target population it contains.

In the second step a post-stratification (by using the raking technique⁹) also takes into control the different sizes of the real estate agencies. The initial weight is modified by an adjustment factor f_k , so that the final weights can be obtained as:

$$(2) \quad w_{hk}^{(1)} = w_h^{(0)} f_k$$

the sum of which coincides, in the post-stratum cells, with the number of firms in the target population they contain. The real estate agencies are grouped into three size classes (1 employee, 2-5 employees, 6 employees and over) separately by non-metropolitan urban areas, metropolitan areas and other municipalities, for a total of 9 post-strata. At every survey the weights are recalculated according to the distribution of the population on the latest available date.¹⁰

A4. Sample estimates

For a generic variable x , the mean is estimated with an estimator given by:

$$(3) \quad \bar{X} = \frac{1}{\sum w_i} \sum w_i X_i$$

where w_i is the weight of the single sample unit. The weight may be the original one (see Section A3) or the weight obtained multiplying it by a scale variable to take account of the different size of the estate agents in the sample.¹¹

A5. Standard errors

The percentage estimates for the national total have standard errors of not more than 1.4 per cent, i.e. maximum confidence intervals (at 95 per cent) of 2.5 percentage points. Table 1a contains the standard errors of percentages of estate agents for the total sample and for some geographical groupings; the estimates also take account of finite population correction. The use of narrower geographical classification domains means that the

⁷ In the registers of the Chambers of Commerce, the contact information is often incomplete or out of date.

⁸ The symbol n_h indicates the actual sample size. This allows the weights to be implicitly corrected to take account of total non-responses.

⁹ Iterative proportional fitting (or raking) simultaneously aligns the sample weights to the distribution of certain characteristics known from outside sources. See for instance V. Verma, *Advanced Sampling Method: Manual for Statistical Trainers*, Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific, Tokyo, 2000, 6.13-6.21.

¹⁰ The population of firms is that obtained from Istat, *Archivio statistico delle imprese attive*, 2013. Updates are published periodically for the population of about two years earlier. The estimates are revised periodically to take account of updates in the survey reference population.

¹¹ On all these aspects, including the method of estimating standard errors, see for example Cicchitelli, F. A. Herzel and Montanari, G.E., *Il campionamento statistico*, Bologna, Il Mulino, 1994.

estimates are less accurate than those for the total sample; this should be taken into account in analysing the results.

Tab. 1a - Standard errors of the estimates
(percentage points)

	Estimates expressed as percentages of agencies									
	5 % 95 %	10 % 90 %	15 % 85 %	20 % 80 %	25 % 75 %	30 % 70 %	35 % 65 %	40 % 60 %	45 % 55 %	50 % 50 %
By geographical area										
North-West.....	1,1	1,5	1,8	2,0	2,2	2,3	2,4	2,4	2,5	2,5
of which: urban areas.....	1,4	1,9	2,2	2,5	2,7	2,9	3,0	3,1	3,1	3,1
of which: non-urban areas	1,8	2,5	2,9	3,3	3,6	3,8	3,9	4,0	4,1	4,1
North-East.....	1,2	1,7	2,0	2,3	2,5	2,6	2,7	2,8	2,8	2,8
of which: urban areas.....	2,0	2,7	3,2	3,6	3,9	4,1	4,3	4,4	4,5	4,5
of which: non-urban areas	1,6	2,2	2,6	2,9	3,1	3,3	3,5	3,5	3,6	3,6
Centre.....	1,2	1,6	2,0	2,2	2,4	2,5	2,6	2,7	2,7	2,7
of which: urban areas.....	1,6	2,2	2,6	2,9	3,1	3,3	3,4	3,5	3,6	3,6
of which: non-urban areas	1,9	2,6	3,0	3,4	3,7	3,9	4,1	4,2	4,2	4,3
South & islands.....	1,2	1,7	2,0	2,2	2,4	2,6	2,7	2,8	2,8	2,8
of which: urban areas.....	1,8	2,4	2,9	3,3	3,5	3,7	3,9	4,0	4,1	4,1
of which: non-urban areas	1,7	2,3	2,7	3,1	3,3	3,5	3,6	3,7	3,8	3,8
By resident population										
Urban areas ⁽¹⁾	0,8	1,1	1,3	1,5	1,6	1,7	1,8	1,8	1,9	1,9
Non-urban areas.....	0,9	1,2	1,4	1,6	1,7	1,8	1,9	1,9	2,0	2,0
Metropolitan areas ⁽²⁾	1,0	1,3	1,6	1,8	1,9	2,0	2,1	2,2	2,2	2,2
Non-metropolitan areas.....	0,7	1,0	1,2	1,4	1,5	1,6	1,6	1,7	1,7	1,7
Total.....	0,6	0,8	1,0	1,1	1,2	1,2	1,3	1,3	1,3	1,4

(1) Urban areas centred on towns with a resident population of over 250,000, including not only the administrative area of the main town but also the hinterland as identified by the Local Labour System. The urban areas are Turin, Genoa and Milan for the North-West; Padua, Verona, Venice, Trieste and Bologna for the North-East; Florence and Rome for the Centre; Naples, Bari, Catania, Messina and Palermo for the South and Islands. – (2) Metropolitan areas centred on cities or large towns with a resident population of over 500,000, including not only the administrative area of the main city or town but also the hinterland as identified by the Local Labour System. The metropolitan areas are Turin, Genoa, Milan, Rome, Naples and Palermo.

A6. The BIRD remote processing system for survey data

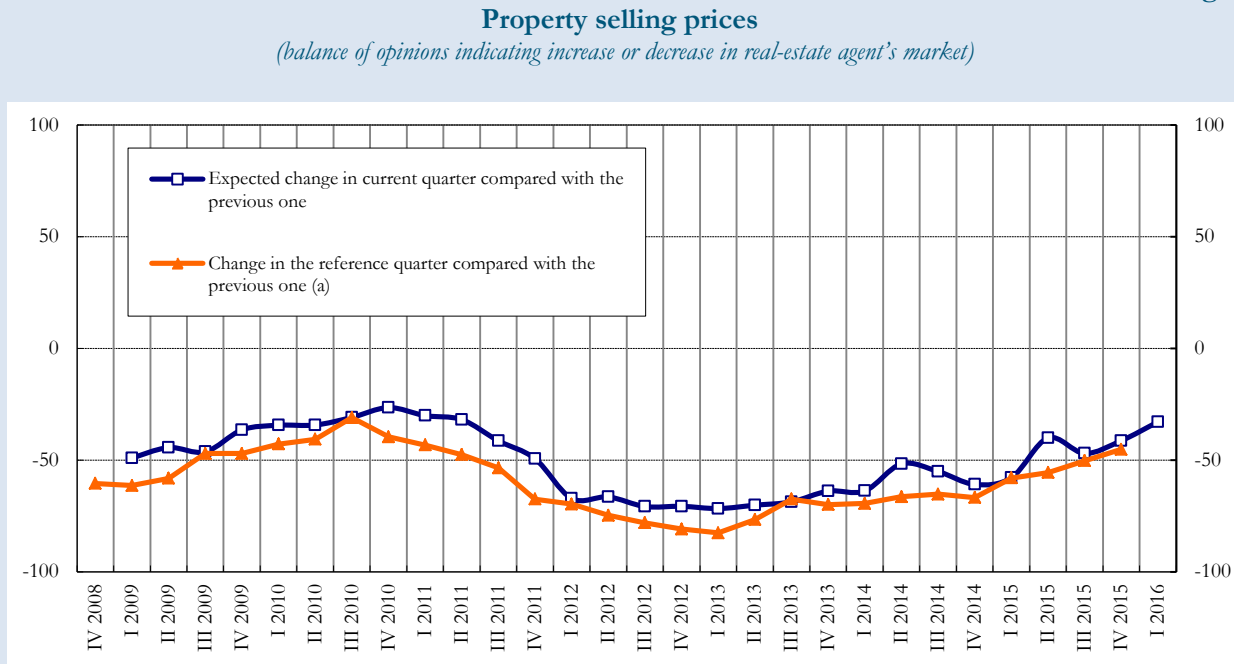
The Bank of Italy Remote access to micro Data (BIRD)¹² makes available data collected from its business surveys. The new system allows researchers and economists to process survey data, ensuring that individual information remains completely confidential. Access to individual micro data is not allowed; the user performs her statistical and econometric analyses by submitting source programs and receiving the corresponding output via e-mail. Input and output alike are subjected to automatic and manual checks of their content and logic. Users must apply to the Bank for authorization in order to gain access to the system

¹² Further details can be found on the Internet at <http://www.bancaditalia.it/statistiche/basi-dati/bird/index.html>

Appendix B:
Tables

B. Figures and tables

Fig. 1



(a) Replies from the agencies that declared sales in the reference quarter.

Fig. 2

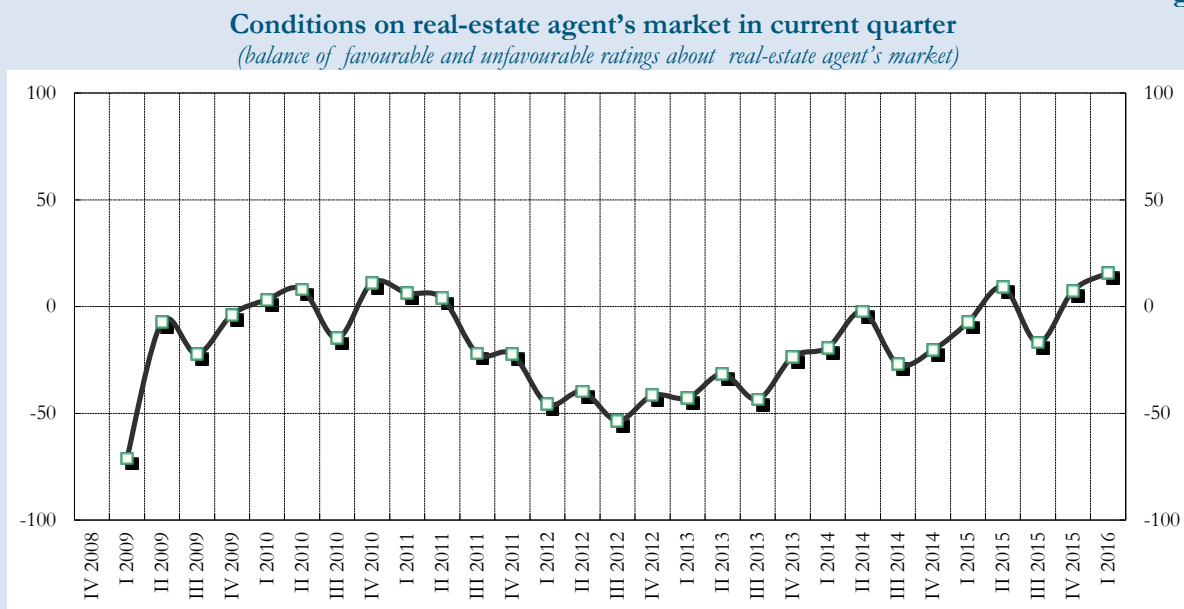
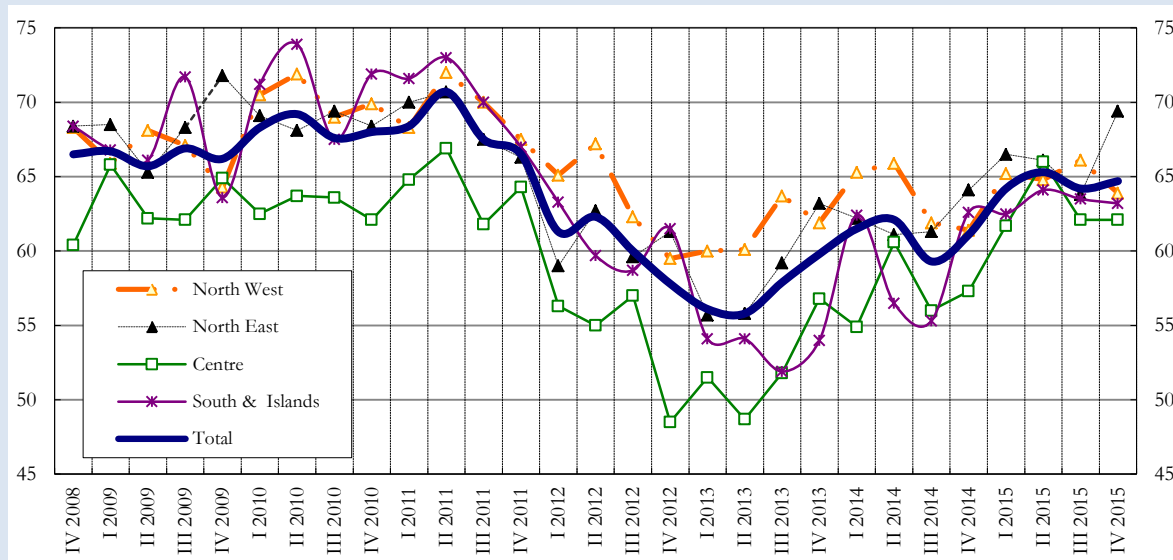


Fig. 3

Loan-to-value ratio of the property
according to agencies' opinions^(a)
(per cent)



(a) Replies from the agencies that declared sales in the reference quarter.

Tab. 1

Distribution of the sample and the population
(number and per cent; reference quarter: October-December 2015)

	Agents in sample (a)	Population of agents (1) (b)	Sampling fraction (a)/(b) (per cent)
By geographical area			
North-West.....	371	11,403	3.3
of which: urban areas ⁽²⁾	230	5,309	4.3
non-urban areas	141	6,094	2.3
North-East.....	292	6,835	4.3
of which: urban areas ⁽²⁾	111	1,567	7.1
non-urban areas	181	5,268	3.4
Centre	299	8,06	3.7
of which: urban areas ⁽²⁾	173	3,774	4.6
non-urban areas	126	4,286	2.9
South & islands	285	5,185	5.5
of which: urban areas ⁽²⁾	128	1,304	9.8
non-urban areas	157	3,881	4.0
By resident population			
Urban areas (>250,000 inhabit.) ⁽²⁾	642	11,954	5.4
Non-urban areas (≤250,000 inhabit.)	605	19,529	3.1
Metropolitan areas (>500,000 inhabit.) ⁽³⁾	459	9,213	5.0
Non-metropolitan areas (≤500,000 inhabit.)	788	22,27	3.5
Total	1,247	31,483	4.0

(1) Istat-Asia (2011). The population comprises firms involved in selling property on behalf of third parties (real-estate agents). – (2) Towns with a resident population of over 250,000, including not only the administrative area of the main town but also the hinterland as identified by the Local Labour System. The urban areas are Turin, Genoa and Milan for the North-West; Padua, Verona, Venice, Trieste and Bologna for the North-East; Florence and Rome for the Centre; Naples, Bari, Catania, Messina and Palermo for the South and Islands. – (3) Cities or large towns with a resident population of over 500,000, including not only the administrative area of the main city or town but also the hinterland as identified by the Local Labour System. The metropolitan areas are Turin, Genoa, Milan, Rome, Naples and Palermo.

Tab. 2

Property selling prices ⁽¹⁾
(per cent of real-estate agents; reference quarter: October-December 2015)

	Comparison with previous period		
	decreasing	stable	increasing
By geographical area			
North-West.....	43.6	54.2	2.2
of which: urban areas ⁽²⁾	41.0	56.3	2.7
non-urban areas	45.7	52.6	1.7
North-East.....	45.7	53.9	0.4
of which: urban areas ⁽²⁾	42.4	55.8	1.8
non-urban areas	46.7	53.3	0.0
Centre	46.9	51.8	1.3
of which: urban areas ⁽²⁾	43.9	54.5	1.7
non-urban areas	49.6	49.4	1.0
South & islands	54.0	46.0	0.1
of which: urban areas ⁽²⁾	46.1	53.6	0.3
non-urban areas	56.6	43.4	0.0
By resident population			
Urban areas (>250,000 inhabit.) ⁽²⁾	42.6	55.4	2.0
Non-urban areas (≤250,000 inhabit.)	48.7	50.5	0.8
Metropolitan areas (>500,000 inhabit.) ⁽³⁾	42.4	55.6	2.0
Non-metropolitan areas (≤500,000 inhabit.)	48.1	51.0	0.9
Total	46.4	52.3	1.2
<i>Memorandum item:</i>			
Q3 2015	51.5	47.3	1.2
Q2 2015	56.4	42.7	0.8
Q1 2015	59.3	39.4	1.3
Q4 2014	67.6	31.6	0.8

(1) Replies from the agencies that declared sales in the reference quarter. – (2) Towns with a resident population of over 250,000, including not only the administrative area of the main town but also the hinterland as identified by the Local Labour System. The urban areas are Turin, Genoa and Milan for the North-West; Padua, Verona, Venice, Trieste and Bologna for the North-East; Florence and Rome for the Centre; Naples, Bari, Catania, Messina and Palermo for the South and Islands. – (3) Cities or large towns with a resident population of over 500,000, including not only the administrative area of the main city or town but also the hinterland as identified by the Local Labour System. The metropolitan areas are Turin, Genoa, Milan, Rome, Naples and Palermo.

Tab. 3

House sales in the reference quarter

(per cent of real-estate agents; reference quarter: October-December 2015)

	Percentage of real-estate agents that sold homes	of which:		
		only new builds	only pre-owned	new and pre-owned
By geographical area				
North-West.....	78.9	4.7	57.7	16.5
of which: urban areas ⁽²⁾	76.2	2.6	57.5	16.2
non-urban areas	81.1	6.5	57.8	16.8
North-East.....	84.3	2.9	56.4	25.0
of which: urban areas ⁽²⁾	86.6	1.9	64.5	20.2
non-urban areas	83.6	3.1	54.0	26.5
Centre	74.8	2.9	58.8	13.1
of which: urban areas ⁽²⁾	75.4	3.4	58.1	13.9
non-urban areas	74.2	2.6	59.3	12.3
South & islands	71.4	2.0	59.2	10.2
of which: urban areas ⁽²⁾	72.8	3.7	58.1	11.0
non-urban areas	70.9	1.5	59.5	9.9
By resident population				
Urban areas (>250,000 inhabit.) ⁽²⁾	77.0	2.9	58.7	15.4
Non-urban areas (≤250,000 inhabit.)	78.2	3.7	57.5	17.1
Metropolitan areas (>500,000 inhabit.) ⁽³⁾	75.4	3.0	57.6	14.8
Non-metropolitan areas (≤500,000 inhabit.)	78.7	3.6	58.0	17.1
Total	77.8	3.4	57.9	16.4
<i>Memorandum item:</i>				
Q3 2015	71.6	3.3	54.3	14.1
Q2 2015	71.1	3.2	52.4	15.5
Q1 2015	69.6	3.8	51.6	14.1
Q4 2014	70.0	4.2	52.2	13.6

(1) Towns with a resident population of over 250,000, including not only the administrative area of the main town but also the hinterland as identified by the Local Labour System. The urban areas are Turin, Genoa and Milan for the North-West; Padua, Verona, Venice, Trieste and Bologna for the North-East; Florence and Rome for the Centre; Naples, Bari, Catania, Messina and Palermo for the South and Islands. – (2) Cities or large towns with a resident population of over 500,000, including not only the administrative area of the main city or town but also the hinterland as identified by the Local Labour System. The metropolitan areas are Turin, Genoa, Milan, Rome, Naples and Palermo.

Tab. 4

Surface area, status, type, and condition of the properties sold (1)

(percentage of agencies; reference quarter: October-December 2015)

	Surface area (m2)			Status			Type			Condition		
	≤80	81-140	>140	Clear	Rented	Remainder interest, usufruct, other	High/Good Quality	Average/Low quality	Villas	New or excellent	Some refurbishment needed	Total refurbishment needed
By geographical area												
North-West.....	37.7	58.3	4.1	99.3	0.5	0.2	64.8	31.5	3.7	28.1	66.0	6.0
of which: urban areas ⁽²⁾	40.2	54.1	5.8	99.6	0.0	0.4	65.0	34.1	0.9	21.5	67.4	11.1
non-urban areas	35.6	61.7	2.7	99.0	1.0	0.0	64.5	29.5	6.0	33.3	64.8	1.9
North-East.....	37.8	58.3	4.0	96.7	2.4	0.9	55.8	38.6	5.5	29.0	66.8	4.2
of which: urban areas ⁽²⁾	34.8	60.1	5.1	99.1	0.0	0.9	49.8	44.8	5.4	18.1	77.8	4.1
non-urban areas	38.7	57.7	3.6	96.0	3.1	0.9	57.7	36.7	5.6	32.4	63.4	4.2
Centre.....	44.4	49.2	6.4	99.2	0.3	0.6	54.7	39.5	5.8	18.9	71.4	9.7
of which: urban areas ⁽²⁾	48.1	48.7	3.3	98.3	0.6	1.2	60.5	34.8	4.6	19.1	68.9	12.0
non-urban areas	41.0	49.7	9.3	100.0	0.0	0.0	49.4	43.7	6.9	18.8	73.7	7.5
South & islands	27.9	71.0	1.1	98.6	1.0	0.4	48.5	48.1	3.4	15.7	73.7	10.6
of which: urban areas ⁽²⁾	28.9	66.7	4.4	94.5	3.9	1.6	62.5	36.0	1.6	16.6	75.4	7.9
non-urban areas	27.5	72.5	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	43.6	52.4	4.0	15.4	73.0	11.5
By resident population												
Urban areas (>250,000 inhabit.) ⁽²⁾	40.7	54.5	4.8	98.6	0.6	0.9	61.1	36.1	2.8	19.8	70.2	10.0
Non-urban areas (≤250,000 inhabit.)	36.2	60.0	3.8	98.5	1.2	0.3	55.7	38.6	5.7	26.9	67.7	5.4
Metropolitan areas (>500,000 inhabit.) ⁽³⁾	42.6	52.8	4.6	98.7	0.6	0.7	63.7	33.9	2.4	18.8	69.1	12.2
Non-metropolitan areas (≤500,000 inhabit.).....	36.0	60.0	4.0	98.5	1.1	0.4	55.4	39.1	5.5	26.4	68.5	5.2
Total	37.9	57.9	4.2	98.5	1.0	0.5	57.8	37.6	4.6	24.2	68.6	7.2

(1) Replies from the agencies that declared sales in the reference quarter. – (2) Towns with a resident population of over 250,000, including not only the administrative area of the main town but also the hinterland as identified by the Local Labour System. The urban areas are Turin, Genoa and Milan for the North-West; Padua, Verona, Venice, Trieste and Bologna for the North-East; Florence and Rome for the Centre; Naples, Bari, Catania, Messina and Palermo for the South and Islands. – (3) Cities or large towns with a resident population of over 500,000, including not only the administrative area of the main city or town but also the hinterland as identified by the Local Labour System. The metropolitan areas are Turin, Genoa, Milan, Rome, Naples and Palermo.

Tab. 5

Energy class of properties sold (1)
(percentage of agencies; reference quarter: October-December 2015)

	Energy class of the property				
	Unclassified	A-B-C	D-E	F-G	Total
By geographical area					
North-West.....	1.6	18.8	20.4	59.2	100.0
of which: urban areas ⁽²⁾	1.9	24.1	21.5	52.4	100.0
non-urban areas	1.2	13.6	19.4	65.8	100.0
North-East.....	2.1	20.2	24.5	53.2	100.0
of which: urban areas ⁽²⁾	2.5	17.3	23.4	56.8	100.0
non-urban areas	2.0	21.1	24.9	52.0	100.0
Centre.....	4.3	7.9	12.1	75.7	100.0
of which: urban areas ⁽²⁾	6.7	9.2	9.8	74.3	100.0
non-urban areas	2.2	6.8	14.1	76.9	100.0
South & islands	8.6	8.1	9.9	73.5	100.0
of which: urban areas ⁽²⁾	3.7	5.3	6.7	84.2	100.0
non-urban areas	10.3	9.0	11.0	69.6	100.0
By resident population					
Urban areas (>250,000 inhabit.) ⁽²⁾	3.5	17.1	17.3	62.1	100.0
Non-urban areas (≤250,000 inhabit.)	3.2	13.8	18.6	64.4	100.0
Metropolitan areas (>500,000 inhabit.) ⁽³⁾	3.8	17.7	16.8	61.7	100.0
Non-metropolitan areas (≤500,000 inhabit.).....	3.1	14.0	18.6	64.3	100.0
Total	3.3	15.1	18.1	63.5	100.0

(1) Replies from the agencies that declared sales in the reference quarter. – (2) Towns with a resident population of over 250,000, including not only the administrative area of the main town but also the hinterland as identified by the Local Labour System. The urban areas are Turin, Genoa and Milan for the North-West; Padua, Verona, Venice, Trieste and Bologna for the North-East; Florence and Rome for the Centre; Naples, Bari, Catania, Messina and Palermo for the South and Islands. – (3) Cities or large towns with a resident population of over 500,000, including not only the administrative area of the main city or town but also the hinterland as identified by the Local Labour System. The metropolitan areas are Turin, Genoa, Milan, Rome, Naples and Palermo..

Tab. 6

Mandates to sell and potential buyers

(per cent of real-estate agents; reference quarter: October-December 2015)

	Number of mandates outstanding at end of quarter compared with previous quarter			Number of new mandates received in the quarter compared with previous quarter			Number of potential buyers in the quarter compared with previous quarter		
	lower	same	higher	lower	same	higher	lower	same	higher
By geographical area									
North-West.....	18.3	60.9	20.7	17.2	58.4	24.4	19.9	47.1	33.0
of which: urban areas ⁽²⁾	22.0	61.1	17.0	20.4	57.2	22.4	18.3	49.3	32.3
non-urban areas	15.2	60.8	24.0	14.4	59.5	26.1	21.3	45.2	33.6
North-East.....	20.1	60.6	19.3	18.8	59.3	21.8	8.4	58.2	33.4
of which: urban areas ⁽²⁾	17.5	64.7	17.8	20.5	58.3	21.2	10.3	55.7	34.0
non-urban areas	20.8	59.5	19.7	18.3	59.6	22.0	7.8	59.0	33.2
Centre	17.6	59.4	23.1	17.5	54.6	27.8	19.4	51.7	28.9
of which: urban areas ⁽²⁾	25.0	55.8	19.2	21.9	55.4	22.7	15.5	52.9	31.5
non-urban areas	11.1	62.5	26.4	13.7	54.0	32.3	22.9	50.6	26.5
South & islands	9.1	55.5	35.4	10.5	52.0	37.5	17.7	46.3	36.1
of which: urban areas ⁽²⁾	15.7	56.8	27.5	18.9	49.3	31.8	9.6	55.3	35.1
non-urban areas	6.9	55.1	37.9	7.7	52.9	39.4	20.3	43.3	36.4
By resident population									
Urban areas (>250,000 inhabit.) ⁽²⁾	21.7	59.4	18.9	20.7	55.9	23.4	15.5	51.9	32.6
Non-urban areas (≤250,000 inhabit.)	14.2	59.7	26.2	14.0	57.0	29.0	17.8	49.7	32.5
Metropolitan areas (>500,000 inhabit.) ⁽³⁾	22.3	58.9	18.7	21.1	56.8	22.1	16.6	51.7	31.7
Non-metropolitan areas (≤500,000 inhabit.).....	14.8	59.8	25.3	14.7	56.5	28.8	17.0	50.1	32.9
Total	17.0	59.6	23.4	16.5	56.6	26.9	16.9	50.5	32.5
<i>Memorandum item:</i>									
Q3 2015	13.7	54.6	31.7	18.6	53.1	28.3	22.5	48.9	28.6
Q2 2015	14.0	54.8	31.2	16.7	54.4	29.0	25.9	52.5	21.6
Q1 2015	12.8	53.4	33.9	15.7	50.6	33.6	24.0	46.5	29.5
Q4 2014	15.5	48.8	35.6	18.6	47.3	34.1	36.8	42.6	20.6

(1) Towns with a resident population of over 250,000, including not only the administrative area of the main town but also the hinterland as identified by the Local Labour System. The urban areas are Turin, Genoa and Milan for the North-West; Padua, Verona, Venice, Trieste and Bologna for the North-East; Florence and Rome for the Centre; Naples, Bari, Catania, Messina and Palermo for the South and Islands. – (2) Cities or large towns with a resident population of over 500,000, including not only the administrative area of the main city or town but also the hinterland as identified by the Local Labour System. The metropolitan areas are Turin, Genoa, Milan, Rome, Naples and Palermo.

Tab. 7

Main reasons for cancelling mandate with agent ⁽¹⁾
(per cent of real-estate agents; reference quarter: October-December 2015)

	Offers received too low for seller	Expecting prices to rise	No offers owing to high price	Property on market for too long	Difficulty obtaining mortgage	Unexpected problems for seller	Other
By geographical area							
North-West.....	53.1	27.3	64.8	27.6	24.9	3.8	4.0
of which: urban areas ⁽²⁾	55.2	31.5	66.8	23.7	23.8	1.2	4.4
non-urban areas	51.2	23.5	62.9	31.0	25.7	6.1	3.7
North-East.....	61.1	28.1	62.7	26.5	29.7	3.3	2.0
of which: urban areas ⁽²⁾	59.2	27.9	67.0	21.2	32.8	0.0	2.9
non-urban areas	61.6	28.2	61.4	28.1	28.8	4.2	1.7
Centre	61.4	29.8	58.6	26.0	25.3	5.1	4.4
of which: urban areas ⁽²⁾	63.2	29.2	59.7	28.3	21.2	4.0	4.0
non-urban areas	59.8	30.4	57.7	23.9	28.9	6.2	4.8
South & islands	70.1	25.4	54.6	21.7	38.9	6.5	2.3
of which: urban areas ⁽²⁾	74.3	20.3	60.6	21.9	31.3	6.5	2.4
non-urban areas	68.7	27.1	52.6	21.7	41.4	6.5	2.3
By resident population							
Urban areas (>250,000 inhabit.) ⁽²⁾	60.4	29.1	63.9	24.6	25.0	2.5	3.8
Non-urban areas (≤250,000 inhabit.)	59.5	27.0	59.3	26.8	30.5	5.7	3.1
Metropolitan areas (>500,000 inhabit.) ⁽³⁾	59.6	29.3	63.7	24.1	24.2	2.6	3.9
Non-metropolitan areas (≤500,000 inhabit.)	59.9	27.1	60.0	26.7	30.1	5.2	3.2
Total.....	59.8	27.8	61.1	26.0	28.4	4.5	3.4
<i>Memorandum item:</i>							
Q3 2015	59.2	26.3	58.6	27.5	27.8	5.0	4.9
Q2 2015	56.6	23.6	57.9	27.9	29.5	5.7	4.7
Q1 2015	58.2	24.6	58.5	27.7	30.9	4.4	4.4
Q4 2014	53.0	24.0	60.4	29.6	35.7	6.4	5.5

(1) Since each agent can list up to three reasons for the removal of properties from their books the percentages on each line may sum to more than 100. – (2) Towns with a resident population of over 250,000, including not only the administrative area of the main town but also the hinterland as identified by the Local Labour System. The urban areas are Turin, Genoa and Milan for the North-West; Padua, Verona, Venice, Trieste and Bologna for the North-East; Florence and Rome for the Centre; Naples, Bari, Catania, Messina and Palermo for the South and Islands. – (3) Cities or large towns with a resident population of over 500,000, including not only the administrative area of the main city or town but also the hinterland as identified by the Local Labour System. The metropolitan areas are Turin, Genoa, Milan, Rome, Naples and Palermo.

Tab. 8

Final price paid in relation to seller's initial asking price ⁽¹⁾

(per cent of real-estate agents, unless otherwise indicated; reference quarter: October-December 2015)

	More than 30% below	20- 30% below	10- 20% below	5-10% below	Less than 5% below	The same or more	Total	Average reduction ⁽²⁾
By geographical area								
North-West.....	4.1	17.5	42.6	27.3	5.9	2.5	100.0	14.4
of which: urban areas ⁽²⁾	3.9	12.8	37.0	35.3	8.9	2.2	100.0	13.0
non-urban areas	4.4	21.5	47.3	20.7	3.4	2.7	100.0	15.6
North-East.....	4.1	12.6	38.1	31.8	7.9	5.5	100.0	12.9
of which: urban areas ⁽²⁾	2.3	13.9	38.1	32.2	8.9	4.5	100.0	12.6
non-urban areas	4.6	12.1	38.1	31.6	7.6	5.9	100.0	12.9
Centre	5.0	14.2	50.1	22.4	5.6	2.7	100.0	14.6
of which: urban areas ⁽²⁾	2.7	11.3	51.6	28.3	4.1	1.9	100.0	13.8
non-urban areas	7.0	16.9	48.8	16.9	7.0	3.4	100.0	15.4
South & islands	3.0	23.8	45.3	18.9	6.4	2.5	100.0	15.4
of which: urban areas ⁽²⁾	0.0	21.2	53.2	19.7	4.8	1.1	100.0	14.9
non-urban areas	4.0	24.7	42.6	18.7	7.0	3.0	100.0	15.6
By resident population								
Urban areas (>250,000 inhabit.) ⁽²⁾	2.9	13.4	43.3	31.1	7.0	2.3	100.0	13.4
Non-urban areas (≤250,000 inhabit.)	4.9	18.4	44.1	22.7	6.0	3.8	100.0	14.8
Metropolitan areas (>500,000 inhabit.) ⁽³⁾	3.4	12.7	43.2	31.8	6.8	2.0	100.0	13.4
Non-metropolitan areas (≤500,000 inhabit.)	4.5	18.0	44.0	23.5	6.2	3.7	100.0	14.6
Total	4.2	16.5	43.8	25.9	6.4	3.3	100.0	14.2
<i>Memorandum item:</i>								
Q3 2015	4.8	19.2	41.9	26.3	5.3	2.6	100.0	14.9
Q2 2015	5.4	21.9	40.8	25.0	4.6	2.4	100.0	15.5
Q1 2015	5.6	19.6	40.5	26.3	4.6	3.5	100.0	15.0
Q4 2014	5.1	26.0	40.8	21.3	4.9	1.8	100.0	16.1

(1) Replies from the agencies that declared sales in the reference quarter. – (2) Estimates weighted with the number of house sales declared by the respondents. – (3) Towns with a resident population of over 250,000, including not only the administrative area of the main town but also the hinterland as identified by the Local Labour System. The urban areas are Turin, Genoa and Milan for the North-West; Padua, Verona, Venice, Trieste and Bologna for the North-East; Florence and Rome for the Centre; Naples, Bari, Catania, Messina and Palermo for the South and Islands. – (4) Cities or large towns with a resident population of over 500,000, including not only the administrative area of the main city or town but also the hinterland as identified by the Local Labour System. The metropolitan areas are Turin, Genoa, Milan, Rome, Naples and Palermo.

Tab. 9

Selling times and mortgage loans ⁽¹⁾
(months. per cent; reference quarter: October-December 2015)

	Time from start of mandate to sale <i>(months)</i>	Percentage of purchases financed with a mortgage loan ⁽²⁾	Loan-to-value ratio of the property
By geographical area			
North-West.....	9.4	68.0	63.9
of which: urban areas ⁽²⁾	7.5	70.2	65.9
non-urban areas	11.1	66.2	62.3
North-East.....	9.4	68.6	69.4
of which: urban areas ⁽²⁾	9.1	63.1	64.1
non-urban areas	9.4	70.6	71.0
Centre	8.6	72.2	62.1
of which: urban areas ⁽²⁾	7.3	73.8	64.0
non-urban areas	9.7	70.8	60.2
South & islands	8.8	63.3	63.2
of which: urban areas ⁽²⁾	6.4	68.9	65.3
non-urban areas	9.6	61.2	62.3
By resident population			
Urban areas (>250,000 inhabit.) ⁽²⁾	7.6	69.9	65.0
Non-urban areas (≤250,000 inhabit.)	10.1	67.6	64.5
Metropolitan areas (>500,000 inhabit.) ⁽³⁾	7.3	71.3	65.3
Non-metropolitan areas (≤500,000 inhabit.)	9.8	67.4	64.4
Total	9.1	68.5	64.7
<i>Memorandum item:</i>			
Q3 2015	9.4	65.7	64.2
Q2 2015	9.4	66.8	65.3
Q1 2015	9.8	65.2	64.2
Q4 2014	9.5	60.7	61.1

(1) Replies from the agencies that declared sales in the reference quarter. – (2) Estimates weighted with the number of house sales declared by the respondents. – (3) Towns with a resident population of over 250,000, including not only the administrative area of the main town but also the hinterland as identified by the Local Labour System. The urban areas are Turin, Genoa and Milan for the North-West; Padua, Verona, Venice, Trieste and Bologna for the North-East; Florence and Rome for the Centre; Naples, Bari, Catania, Messina and Palermo for the South and Islands. – (4) Cities or large towns with a resident population of over 500,000, including not only the administrative area of the main city or town but also the hinterland as identified by the Local Labour System. The metropolitan areas are Turin, Genoa, Milan, Rome, Naples and Palermo.

Tab. 10

Assessments of rental prices

(per cent of real-estate agents; reference quarter: October-December 2015; current quarter: January-March 2016)

	Percentage of agencies that rented a property in the reference quarter	Rental prices in the reference quarter compared with the previous period ⁽¹⁾			Expected level of rental prices in the current quarter compared with the previous period ⁽¹⁾		
		falling	stable	rising	falling	stable	rising
By geographical area							
North-West.....	85.2	31.5	64.7	3.9	16.3	82.1	1.6
of which: urban areas ⁽²⁾	85.6	30.0	64.1	6.0	15.4	81.3	3.3
non-urban areas	85.0	32.8	65.2	2.0	17.2	82.8	0.0
North-East.....	85.4	31.3	66.3	2.4	13.8	82.4	3.8
of which: urban areas ⁽²⁾	86.0	26.7	65.7	7.6	10.3	85.7	4.0
non-urban areas	85.2	32.8	66.4	0.7	14.9	81.3	3.7
Centre	82.5	36.9	61.0	2.1	16.7	80.9	2.4
of which: urban areas ⁽²⁾	86.3	42.6	54.6	2.9	16.6	82.8	0.6
non-urban areas	79.0	31.2	67.4	1.4	16.8	78.9	4.3
South & islands	71.0	37.3	56.6	6.1	20.6	75.1	4.2
of which: urban areas ⁽²⁾	79.4	34.9	61.4	3.7	24.2	74.6	1.2
non-urban areas	67.9	38.5	54.4	7.1	19.0	75.4	5.6
By resident population							
Urban areas (>250,000 inhabit.) ⁽²⁾	85.2	33.9	61.1	5.0	15.9	81.7	2.4
Non-urban areas (≤250,000 inhabit.)	80.5	33.3	64.4	2.3	16.7	80.4	2.9
Metropolitan areas (>500,000 inhabit.) ⁽³⁾	84.9	36.1	59.6	4.3	16.7	80.9	2.3
Non-metropolitan areas (≤500,000 inhabit.)	81.3	32.4	64.6	3.0	16.2	81.0	2.8
Total	82.4	33.6	63.1	3.4	16.4	81.0	2.7
Memorandum item:							
Q3 2015	84.8	34.6	63.0	2.4	21.0	78.0	0.9
Q2 2015	82.7	38.6	58.3	3.2	22.3	75.6	2.1
Q1 2015	80.0	44.8	52.1	3.0	22.0	75.2	2.8
Q4 2014	81.1	53.2	44.3	2.6	31.5	66.2	2.3

(1) Replies from the agencies that rented property in the reference quarter. – (2) Towns with a resident population of over 250,000, including not only the administrative area of the main town but also the hinterland as identified by the Local Labour System. The urban areas are Turin, Genoa and Milan for the North-West; Padua, Verona, Venice, Trieste and Bologna for the North-East; Florence and Rome for the Centre; Naples, Bari, Catania, Messina and Palermo for the South and Islands. – (3) Cities or large towns with a resident population of over 500,000, including not only the administrative area of the main city or town but also the hinterland as identified by the Local Labour System. The metropolitan areas are Turin, Genoa, Milan, Rome, Naples and Palermo.

Tab. 11

Mandates to let and average reduction on rental price requested
(per cent of real-estate agents, per cent; reference quarter: October-December 2015)

	Number of new mandates to let received in the quarter compared with previous quarter			Average reduction on rental price originally asked by owner
	lower	same	higher	
By geographical area				
North-West.....	22.5	66.8	10.7	5.9
of which: urban areas ⁽²⁾	27.2	65.5	7.3	5.2
non-urban areas	18.2	68.0	13.8	6.6
North-East.....	25.5	61.9	12.6	4.7
of which: urban areas ⁽²⁾	24.8	63.6	11.6	4.1
non-urban areas	25.7	61.4	12.9	4.9
Centre	24.0	62.4	13.7	7.5
of which: urban areas ⁽²⁾	18.5	64.1	17.4	7.4
non-urban areas	29.4	60.6	10.0	7.5
South & islands	23.7	59.5	16.8	8.2
of which: urban areas ⁽²⁾	25.3	55.7	19.0	8.8
non-urban areas	23.1	60.9	16.1	7.9
By resident population				
Urban areas (>250,000 inhabit.) ⁽²⁾	24.0	63.8	12.2	6.1
Non-urban areas (≤250,000 inhabit.)	23.5	63.3	13.2	6.5
Metropolitan areas (>500,000 inhabit.) ⁽³⁾	21.9	66.1	12.0	6.3
Non-metropolitan areas (≤500,000 inhabit.)	24.5	62.3	13.2	6.3
Total	23.7	63.5	12.8	6.3
<i>Memorandum item:</i>				
Q3 2015	22.5	62.8	14.8	6.3
Q2 2015	21.8	62.6	15.6	6.7
Q1 2015	21.5	64.1	14.4	6.8
Q4 2014	22.6	59.3	18.1	7.5

(1) Towns with a resident population of over 250,000, including not only the administrative area of the main town but also the hinterland as identified by the Local Labour System. The urban areas are Turin, Genoa and Milan for the North-West; Padua, Verona, Venice, Trieste and Bologna for the North-East; Florence and Rome for the Centre; Naples, Bari, Catania, Messina and Palermo for the South and Islands. – (2) Cities or large towns with a resident population of over 500,000, including not only the administrative area of the main city or town but also the hinterland as identified by the Local Labour System. The metropolitan areas are Turin, Genoa, Milan, Rome, Naples and Palermo.

Tab. 12

Outlook for the housing market

(per cent of real-estate agents; reference quarter: October-December 2015; current quarter: January-March 2016)

	Conditions on real-estate agent's market in current quarter			Expected number of newly registered properties in current quarter compared with reference quarter			Expected level of prices in current quarter compared with reference quarter		
	poor	normal	good	lower	same	higher	lower	same	higher
By geographical area									
North-West.....	9.4	63.8	26.8	9.2	69.1	21.7	34.6	63.2	2.2
of which: urban areas ⁽²⁾	8.9	66.4	24.6	12.0	67.7	20.4	30.6	67.3	2.1
non-urban areas	9.8	61.4	28.8	6.7	70.4	22.9	38.2	59.6	2.2
North-East.....	7.3	67.7	25.0	9.1	67.1	23.7	33.0	65.8	1.3
of which: urban areas ⁽²⁾	4.4	76.2	19.5	10.0	65.5	24.5	23.5	73.4	3.1
non-urban areas	8.2	65.2	26.6	8.9	67.6	23.5	35.8	63.5	0.7
Centre	8.9	67.6	23.5	8.1	66.8	25.2	35.2	61.8	3.0
of which: urban areas ⁽²⁾	9.2	71.6	19.2	12.7	63.4	23.8	28.7	69.5	1.9
non-urban areas	8.6	64.2	27.2	3.9	69.7	26.3	40.9	55.1	4.0
South & islands	13.2	61.7	25.1	5.7	60.7	33.7	39.2	58.0	2.8
of which: urban areas ⁽²⁾	5.7	61.5	32.8	9.2	58.1	32.6	33.5	65.9	0.6
non-urban areas	15.7	61.8	22.6	4.5	61.5	34.0	41.1	55.4	3.5
By resident population									
Urban areas (>250,000 inhabit.) ⁽²⁾	8.1	68.8	23.1	11.7	65.0	23.3	29.4	68.7	2.0
Non-urban areas (≤250,000 inhabit.)	10.3	63.1	26.6	6.2	67.7	26.1	38.7	58.8	2.5
Metropolitan areas (>500,000 inhabit.) ⁽³⁾	8.6	68.6	22.7	11.3	65.3	23.4	30.6	67.4	2.0
Non-metropolitan areas (≤500,000 inhabit.)	9.8	63.9	26.3	7.0	67.2	25.7	37.1	60.5	2.4
Total	9.4	65.3	25.3	8.3	66.7	25.0	35.2	62.5	2.3
<i>Memorandum item:</i>									
Q3 2015	12.9	66.8	20.3	10.6	65.7	23.7	42.6	56.1	1.3
Q2 2015	26.7	63.5	9.8	15.0	65.7	19.3	47.5	52.1	0.5
Q1 2015	12.4	66.0	21.5	7.7	70.1	22.2	42.0	56.1	1.9
Q4 2014	22.8	61.7	15.4	11.0	61.1	27.9	58.7	40.4	0.9

(1) Towns with a resident population of over 250,000, including not only the administrative area of the main town but also the hinterland as identified by the Local Labour System. The urban areas are Turin, Genoa and Milan for the North-West; Padua, Verona, Venice, Trieste and Bologna for the North-East; Florence and Rome for the Centre; Naples, Bari, Catania, Messina and Palermo for the South and Islands. – (2) Cities or large towns with a resident population of over 500,000, including not only the administrative area of the main city or town but also the hinterland as identified by the Local Labour System. The metropolitan areas are Turin, Genoa, Milan, Rome, Naples and Palermo.

Tab. 13

General situation of the housing market in Italy

(percent of real-estate agents; reference quarter: October-December 2015; current quarter: January-March 2016)

	Outlook for current quarter compared with reference quarter			Outlook for next two years compared with reference quarter		
	worse	same	better	worse	same	better
By geographical area						
North-West.....	12.2	71.1	16.6	13.0	34.7	52.3
of which: urban areas ⁽²⁾	12.8	69.8	17.4	13.4	35.0	51.6
non-urban areas	11.7	72.3	16.0	12.7	34.4	53.0
North-East.....	9.4	69.3	21.4	8.8	37.8	53.4
of which: urban areas ⁽²⁾	11.5	71.6	17.0	9.6	32.4	58.0
non-urban areas	8.8	68.6	22.6	8.6	39.2	52.2
Centre	10.5	73.7	15.8	8.5	34.7	56.8
of which: urban areas ⁽²⁾	11.1	76.3	12.6	10.2	35.9	53.8
non-urban areas	10.0	71.5	18.6	7.0	33.6	59.4
South & islands	10.9	63.3	25.8	10.7	24.1	65.3
of which: urban areas ⁽²⁾	6.6	63.7	29.6	6.2	18.5	75.3
non-urban areas	12.4	63.2	24.5	12.1	25.8	62.2
By resident population						
Urban areas (>250,000 inhabit.) ⁽²⁾	11.4	71.4	17.1	11.2	33.3	55.6
Non-urban areas (≤250,000 inhabit.)	10.6	69.3	20.1	10.2	33.8	56.1
Metropolitan areas (>500,000 inhabit.) ⁽³⁾	11.9	72.0	16.1	11.7	34.3	54.0
Non-metropolitan areas (≤500,000 inhabit.)	10.6	69.3	20.1	10.1	33.3	56.7
Total	10.9	70.1	19.0	10.5	33.6	55.9
<i>Memorandum item:</i>						
Q3 2015	16.3	67.5	16.2	12.1	34.9	53.1
Q2 2015	27.9	64.1	8.0	20.9	35.9	43.1
Q1 2015	16.4	69.9	13.7	16.2	33.3	50.6
Q4 2014	31.5	60.0	8.5	22.4	33.3	44.2

(1) Towns with a resident population of over 250,000, including not only the administrative area of the main town but also the hinterland as identified by the Local Labour System. The urban areas are Turin, Genoa and Milan for the North-West; Padua, Verona, Venice, Trieste and Bologna for the North-East; Florence and Rome for the Centre; Naples, Bari, Catania, Messina and Palermo for the South and Islands. – (2) Cities or large towns with a resident population of over 500,000, including not only the administrative area of the main city or town but also the hinterland as identified by the Local Labour System. The metropolitan areas are Turin, Genoa, Milan, Rome, Naples and Palermo.

Appendix C:
The questionnaire

BANK OF ITALY – TECNOBORSA – OSSERVATORIO DEL MERCATO IMMOBILIARE

SURVEY OF REAL-ESTATE AGENTS
ON THE ITALIAN HOUSING MARKET

JANUARY 2016

Name of respondent: _____
Tel: _____ Fax: _____ E-mail: _____

1. Introduction

This survey is conducted every three months by **Questlab Srl** on behalf of the **Bank of Italy, Tecnoborsa** (Chamber of Commerce organization for the development and regulation of the housing sector) and the Osservatorio del Mercato Immobiliare of the Italian Revenue Agency, in order to gather information on the residential housing market in Italy.

At the beginning of each section you will find instructions to help you answer the questions. The questionnaire is divided into four sections: (A) the trend in residential housing sales; (B) prices; (C) the short-term outlook; and (D) the rental market.

Most of the questions ask for an opinion and only a few require a numerical estimate.

The questionnaire is addressed to **real-estate agents** and individual **property consultants** able to provide information regarding the activity of the **office as a whole**.

The report containing the results of the previous edition of the survey can be downloaded from:

<https://www.bancaditalia.it/statistiche/tematiche/indagini-famiglie-imprese/mercato-abitazioni/index.html>

2. General instructions

- When asked to give a percentage change, please enter the sign (+ for an increase; — for a decrease) in the first box on the left.
- Your answers must refer to situations or changes in the quarter **October-December 2015** (unless otherwise indicated).
- When answering refer **only to housing units** and ignore any other units (garage, storage space, etc.).

3. For further information on how to complete the questionnaire, contact:

Questlab Srl Via Ospedale 27 30174 Venezia Mestre, Tel: 0415044370,
Fax: 0415044244, E-mail: info@questlab.it

4. For clarifications or information on methodological aspects, contact:

Bank of Italy Via Nazionale 91, 00184 Roma – Tel: 0647923324-0647922190,
Fax: 0647929210, E-mail: studi.rms@bancaditalia.it
Tecnoborsa Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 69-71 00153 Roma – Tel: 0657300710,
Fax 0657301832, E-mail: osservatorio@tecnoborsa.com
Revenue Agency Osservatorio del Mercato Immobiliare, Largo Leopardi 5 00185 Roma –
Tel: 0647775270, Fax: 0647775440, E-mail:
at_territorioinforma@agenziaentrate.it

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE PURSUANT TO LEGISLATIVE DECREE 196/2003

This survey is conducted by the Bank of Italy, Tecnoborsa and the Revenue Agency every three months to collect information on Italian real-estate agents' opinions regarding various economic phenomena. Participation is voluntary. The data are collected by Questlab S.r.l. and used by the Bank of Italy, Tecnoborsa and the Revenue Agency for research purposes only. Data will be kept for an unspecified period of time and appropriate devices will be put in place to protect the privacy of all respondents, in compliance with Legislative Decree 196/2003 (Confidentiality Law). The results of the survey will be published in aggregate and anonymous form. Persons concerned may enforce their rights under Article 7 of the Confidentiality Law – including the right to rectify, update, complete or cancel incorrect or incomplete information and to object to processing of information for legitimate reasons – in respect of the persons or entities handling and processing the data. *Data processing by:* Bank of Italy, Organization Directorate, Via Nazionale 91, 00184 ROME. *In charge of handling data:* for Questlab S.r.l.: Giuseppe Castiello, Via Ospedale 27, 30174 Venice - Mestre; for the Bank of Italy: Economic Outlook and Monetary Policy Directorate, Via Nazionale 91, 00184 ROME; for Tecnoborsa SCPA: Ettore Troiani, Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 69-71 00153 Roma; and for the Revenue Agency: Direttore Centrale Osservatorio Mercato Immobiliare e Servizi Estimativi, Largo Leopardi 5, 00185 Rome.

Name of Real Estate Agency: _____					
Legal Status: <input type="checkbox"/> SRL <input type="checkbox"/> SPA <input type="checkbox"/> SAS <input type="checkbox"/> SNC <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____					
Is the office part of a group? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, Name of group: _____ <i>(a group is a set of businesses directly or indirectly controlled through one or more chains of control, such as in franchising, by the same legal persons or the same entity):</i>					
In the past 12 months, has your agency been active mainly in:		<input type="checkbox"/> Sale of properties on your own account <input type="checkbox"/> Sale of properties on account of third parties			
NOTE: "Sales" means mandates to sell that your agency has concluded successfully, referring to the time when the seller accepts the buyer's offer or when a preliminary sales contract is signed. In the case of sales effected in more than one municipality, please refer in all your answers to the municipality in which most of your agency's business is conducted, defined as that in which the largest total number of sales are made.					
Has your agency done rental business in the past 12 months?		<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes			
1. How many agents work for the agency at present (including yourself)?		_____			
2. Regarding the housing market only in the area in which you operate, how does the situation in October-December 2015 compare with the previous quarter?		<input type="checkbox"/> Better <input type="checkbox"/> Same <input type="checkbox"/> Worse			
SECTION A – HOUSE SALES					
This section asks for information on the trends in house sales completed by you or the agency. Most of the questions ask you to give information for the whole of the <u>reference quarter</u> , which in the present survey covers the period October-December 2015 .					
A1. Please name the town in which you made most sales in October-December 2015 :		POST CODE _____ _____ _____ _____ TOWN _____			
A2. Did you sell any homes?	Reference Quarter October-December 2015		Previous Quarter July-September 2015		
	Yes, only new builds (*) _____		Yes, only new builds (*) _____		
	Yes, only existing homes _____		Yes, only existing homes _____		
	Yes, new and existing homes _____		Yes, new and existing homes _____		
	No _____		No _____		
(*) New builds includes both new constructions and homes that were gut-renovated.					
A3. Can you say whether the number of houses your agency sold in October-December 2015 was ...	Compared with the previous quarter July-September 2015		Compared with the same quarter last year (October-December 2014)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> lower (by more than 10%) <input type="checkbox"/> about the same (+/-10% or less) <input type="checkbox"/> higher (by more than 10%)		<input type="checkbox"/> lower (by more than 10%) <input type="checkbox"/> about the same (+/-10% or less) <input type="checkbox"/> higher (by more than 10%)		
A4. The number of potential purchasers your office assisted in the reference quarter (October-December 2015) was: <i>(number of potential purchasers who visited at least one property listed by your office)</i>		<input type="checkbox"/> Smaller <input type="checkbox"/> More or less the same <input type="checkbox"/> Larger		<input type="checkbox"/> Smaller <input type="checkbox"/> More or less the same <input type="checkbox"/> Larger	
If your office did not sell a property in the reference quarter (October-December 2015), go to question A6.1					
A5. How many homes did your office sell in the reference quarter (October-December 2015)?		New _____ Existing _____			
Considering the type of property that your agency has <u>brokered most</u> in the reference period, please indicate below the main characteristics of these properties according to: (one reply in each line)					
A6.1. Surface area (in m2)		≤80 m2 _____	81-140 m2 _____	>140m2 _____	
A6.2 The status of the property		Clear _____	Rented _____	Rem. interest, usufruct, oth. _____	

A6.3 The condition of the property	New or excellent __	Some refurbishm. needed __	Total refurbishm. needed __
A6.4 The type of property	High/Good quality __	Average/Low quality __	Villas __
A7. Considering as a whole all the properties brokered by your agency in the reference quarter, please indicate, even approximately, the percentage of properties belonging to each of the following energy classes: <i>Note: the sum of the four percentages must equal 100.</i>			
Unclassified __ %	A-B-C ____ %	D-E ____ %	F-G ____ %
If your office did not sell a property in the reference quarter (October-December 2015), go to question A10.			
A8. Considering all the homes sold by you in the reference quarter, how many do you know were bought with a mortgage and for what proportion of the price?	____ % of homes bought with a mortgage ____ % of price covered by mortgage __ Don't know		
A9. Considering the total number of homes sold by you in the reference quarter, how many months passed on average between a house being registered with you and its sale (signature of preliminary contract)?	Reference quarter October-December 2015	Previous quarter July-September 2015	
	__ months	__ months	
A10. Considering the total number of homes sold by you in the reference quarter, how many months passed on average between a house being registered with you and its sale (signature of preliminary contract)?			__ months
A11. Considering the <u>number of homes on your books still unsold</u> at the end December 2015 , compared with the end of September 2015 , was that number...? <i>(Please count properties registered with you both before and during the reference quarter)</i>			<input type="checkbox"/> Much smaller <input type="checkbox"/> Smaller <input type="checkbox"/> The same <input type="checkbox"/> Larger <input type="checkbox"/> Much larger
A12. Considering the <u>number of new mandates you received</u> in the reference quarter, compared with the previous quarter was that number...?: <i>(Please count only properties newly registered on your books during the reference quarter, including any that were sold in the period):</i>			<input type="checkbox"/> Much smaller <input type="checkbox"/> Smaller <input type="checkbox"/> The same <input type="checkbox"/> Larger <input type="checkbox"/> Much larger
A13. Regarding lapses or non-renewals of agreements in the reference quarter, please select the main reasons from the list on the right (<i>no more than three</i>)	<input type="checkbox"/> Seller thought the offers received were too low <input type="checkbox"/> Owner decided to wait in expectation of a rise in prices <input type="checkbox"/> No offers were made because buyers thought the price was too high <input type="checkbox"/> Too long since the property was put on the market <input type="checkbox"/> Buyer had difficulty getting a mortgage <input type="checkbox"/> Seller encountered unexpected problems (seizure of property, separation, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Other reasons (give details) _____		

SECTION B – PRICES	
This section covers information on selling prices in the reference quarter (October-December 2015).	
If the office did not sell properties in the reference quarter (October-December 2015), go to question B4.	
B1.1. For the main type of property sold in the reference quarter, compared with the end of the previous quarter (July-September 2015), was the average selling price (per sq. m.): B1.2. Can you quantify the percentage change in selling prices (per sq. m.) as compared to a year ago?	<input type="checkbox"/> Much lower (more than -5%) <input type="checkbox"/> Lower (between -1.1% and -5%) <input type="checkbox"/> More or less stable (between -1% and +1%) <input type="checkbox"/> Higher (between +1.1% and +5%) <input type="checkbox"/> Much higher (more than +5%)
	<input type="checkbox"/> More than -10% <input type="checkbox"/> Between -5.1% and -10% <input type="checkbox"/> Between -3.1% and -5% <input type="checkbox"/> Between -1.1% and -3% <input type="checkbox"/> Between -1% and +1% <input type="checkbox"/> Between +1.1 and +3% <input type="checkbox"/> Between +3.1 and +5% <input type="checkbox"/> Between +5.1 and +10% <input type="checkbox"/> More than +10%
B2. For the main type of property sold in the reference quarter, what was the highest and lowest selling price (per sq. m.)?	Lowest (€) _____ Highest (€) _____

B3. For the main type of property sold in the reference quarter, compared with the seller's first asking price was the selling price:	Lower by: <input type="checkbox"/> More than 30% <input type="checkbox"/> Between 20% and 30% <input type="checkbox"/> Between 10% and 20% <input type="checkbox"/> Between 5% and 10% <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 5% <input type="checkbox"/> The same (or higher)
If the office did not sell properties in the reference quarter (October-December 2015), go to question C.	
B4. How does the average selling price in your area (per sq. m.) for this reference quarter compare with the previous quarter (July-September 2015):	<input type="checkbox"/> Sharp decrease (more than -5%) <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease (Between -1.1% and -5%) <input type="checkbox"/> Fairly stable (between -1% and +1%) <input type="checkbox"/> Increase (between +1.1% and +5%) <input type="checkbox"/> Sharp increase (more than +5%)

SECTION C – OUTLOOK		
This section looks at the short-term and mid-term prospects of the housing market.		
C1. Considering the type of property that you generally sell regardless of recent trends, how do you think prices in January-March 2016 will differ from the reference quarter (October-December 2015)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Sharp decrease (more than -5%) <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease (Between -1% and -5%) <input type="checkbox"/> Fairly stable (between -1% and +1%) <input type="checkbox"/> Increase (between +1% and +5%) <input type="checkbox"/> Sharp increase (more than +5%)	
	In the quarter January-March 2016 compared with the same period in the previous year	12 months from now compared with today
C2. Considering the type of property that you generally sell, can you quantify this change in selling prices (per sq. m.)?	<input type="checkbox"/> More than -10% <input type="checkbox"/> Between -5.1% and -10% <input type="checkbox"/> Between -3.1% and -5% <input type="checkbox"/> Between -1.1% and -3% <input type="checkbox"/> Between -1% and +1% <input type="checkbox"/> Between +1.1% and +3% <input type="checkbox"/> Between +3.1% and +5% <input type="checkbox"/> Between +5.1% and +10% <input type="checkbox"/> More than 10%	<input type="checkbox"/> More than -10% <input type="checkbox"/> Between -5.1% and -10% <input type="checkbox"/> Between -3.1% and -5% <input type="checkbox"/> Between -1.1% and -3% <input type="checkbox"/> Between -1% and +1% <input type="checkbox"/> Between +1.1% and +3% <input type="checkbox"/> Between +3.1% and +5% <input type="checkbox"/> Between +5.1% and +10% <input type="checkbox"/> More than 10%
C3. In January-March 2016 , how do you expect the number of <u>new mandates to sell</u> to compare with the reference quarter:	<input type="checkbox"/> Much smaller <input type="checkbox"/> Smaller <input type="checkbox"/> More or less the same <input type="checkbox"/> Larger <input type="checkbox"/> Much larger	
C4. Considering the housing market only in your area , how will the performance in the current quarter compare with the next quarter (January-March 2016)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Worse <input type="checkbox"/> Same <input type="checkbox"/> Better	
	In the next quarter January-March 2016:	Over the next two years:
C5. How do you think the general situation in the housing market throughout the country will develop compared with the present?	<input type="checkbox"/> Worse <input type="checkbox"/> Same <input type="checkbox"/> Better	<input type="checkbox"/> Worse <input type="checkbox"/> Same <input type="checkbox"/> Better

SECTION D – RENTAL MARKET		
This section looks at trends in the rental market according to agencies that deal in this market.		
D1. In the present quarter October-December 2015 , has your office let a property? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes		
	Compared to the previous quarter July-September 2015	Compared to the same quarter last year (October-December 2014)
D2. In the present quarter, the number of properties let by your office...	<input type="checkbox"/> Decreased (more than 10%) <input type="checkbox"/> Remained stable (between -10% and + 10%) <input type="checkbox"/> Increased (more than 10%)	<input type="checkbox"/> Decreased (more than 10%) <input type="checkbox"/> Remained stable (between -10% and + 10%) <input type="checkbox"/> Increased (more than 10%)

<p>D3. Considering the number of new rental contracts brokered by your office in the reference quarter, compared to the previous quarter, the number was: <i>(Please count only properties newly registered on your books during the reference quarter, including any that were negotiated in the period)</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Much lower <input type="checkbox"/> Lower <input type="checkbox"/> The same <input type="checkbox"/> Higher <input type="checkbox"/> Much higher
<p>If your office did not let any properties in the reference quarter, go to question D9.</p>	
<p>D4. For the main type of property let in the reference quarter, how does the average rental price in your territory compare with the previous quarter:</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Much lower (more than -5%) <input type="checkbox"/> Lower (between -1.1% and -5%) <input type="checkbox"/> More or less stable (between -1% and +1%) <input type="checkbox"/> Higher (between +1.1% and +5%) <input type="checkbox"/> Much higher (more than +5%)
<p>D5. For the main type of property let in the reference quarter, what was the size of the largest and smallest property (in sq. m.)?</p>	<p>smallest (mq) _____ largest (mq) _____ </p>
<p>D6. For the main type of property let in the reference quarter, what was the approximate highest and lowest rent recorded?</p>	<p>lowest (€) _____ highest (€) _____ </p>
<p>D7. For the main type of property let in the reference quarter, compared with the owner's first asking price was the rental price:</p>	<p>Lower by: <input type="checkbox"/> More than 30% <input type="checkbox"/> Between 20% and 30% <input type="checkbox"/> Between 10% and 20% <input type="checkbox"/> Between 5% and 10% <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 5% <input type="checkbox"/> The same (or higher) </p>
<p>D8. Considering the average rental price in your area for the reference quarter, how do you think it will compare with the next quarter (January-March 2016):</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Much lower (more than -5%) <input type="checkbox"/> Lower (between -1.1% and -5%) <input type="checkbox"/> More or less stable (between -1% and +1%) <input type="checkbox"/> Higher (between +1.1% and +5%) <input type="checkbox"/> Much higher (more than +5%)
<p>If the office has let property in the present quarter (October-December 2015) the survey is concluded.</p>	
<p>D9. For the main type of property let in the reference quarter, compared with the previous quarter (July-September 2015), was the average rental price:</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Much lower (more than -5%) <input type="checkbox"/> Lower (between -1,1% and -5%) <input type="checkbox"/> More or less stable (between -1% and +1%) <input type="checkbox"/> Higher (between +1,1% and +5%) <input type="checkbox"/> Much higher (more than +5%)

GENERAL INFORMATION

- I - Unless indicated otherwise, figures have been computed by the Bank of Italy.
- II - Symbols and Conventions:
- the phenomenon in question does not occur;
 - the phenomenon occurs but its value is not known;
 - .. the value is known but is nil or less than half the final digit shown.
- Figures in parentheses in roman type () are provisional, those in parentheses in italics () are estimated.
- III - The tables are identified both by a number and by an alphanumeric code that defines the content of the table in the database in the electronic archive in which information to be released to the public is held. A similar code identifies the different aggregates shown in each table.
- IV - The methodological notes in the last part of the Supplement are identified by electronic codes that refer to the tables and, within each table, to the individual aggregates. Notes that refer to a single observation are also identified by the date of that observation.

SUPPLEMENTS TO THE STATISTICAL BULLETIN

Money and Banking (monthly)

The Financial Market (monthly)

The Public Finances, borrowing requirement and debt (monthly)

Balance of Payments and International Investment Position (monthly)

Financial Accounts (quarterly)

Payment System (half yearly)

Public Finance Statistics in the European Union (annual)

Local Government Debt (half yearly)

Household Wealth in Italy (annual)

Sample Surveys (irregular)

Methodological Notes (irregular)

All the supplements are available on the Bank of Italy's site (www.bancaditalia.it).

Requests for clarifications concerning data contained in this publication can be sent by e-mail to statistiche@bancaditalia.it

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