**HISTORICAL ARCHIVE OF CREDIT IN ITALY**

***Technical Manual***

The database ASCI on Italian banks balance sheets includes data for a *sample* of banks since 1890 to 1973. The archive is available in 2 formats, either “dta” or “csv”, and in 2 versions: an extended one, called *ASCI\_complete*, which includes all available balance sheet items; an abridged one, called *ASCI\_light*, which includes the main items. Both versions share the same structure. Every observation contains information on a bank in a given year. Table 1 reports the variables in ASCI.

Table 1

**Variables description**



In addition to Table 1:

***Id\_Banca.*** The identification code does not change when the bank changes either name or category.

***Codice\_Banca.*** This official code is assigned to every bank since 1936 by ABI (Italian Banking Association). We have assigned a 5-digit code for banks which have not survived after 1936. The identification code does not change when a bank changes either name or category.

***Categoria.*** Categories available within the dataset are: joint-stock or ordinary credit banks (SOC), cooperative banks (BP), savings banks (CRO), banking houses (DB), Bank of National Interest (BIN), Public Law Banks (IDP), (first class) pledge banks (MDP), central institutes (ICC), other banks (AB), other financial institutions (OUT).

***Provincia.***The variable is missing whenever the legal headquarters are outside the present Italian boundaries.

***Regione*.** The variable is missing whenever the legal headquarters are outside the present Italian boundaries.

***Nazione*.** The database includes only Italian banks, but some of them were established in areas which do not belong to the current Italian territory (i.e., ex-colonies).

***Schema\_Di\_Bilancio*.** There are 24 different balance sheet schemes, which vary across time and bank categories (Tab. 2)

***Bilanci\_Riclassificati\_SOC*.** When the original balance sheets did not follow any of the 24 schemes, their items have been reclassified in order to fit an official scheme (according to the time period and the bank category). This variable is equal to 1 when reclassification has occurred. This information is available only for categories SOC and OUT, during the 1890-1936 period.

***Bil\_Sostituito\_BP.*** This variable is equal to 1 when the balance sheet is not referred to December 31st. It concerns only cooperative banks (BP).

***Data\_Bil\_Rilevato\_BP***. This variable reports the date of the balance sheet when it is not referred to December 31st. It concerns only cooperative banks (BP).

***Voce\*, Sot\_voce\* e Sot1\_voce\**** refer, respectively, to main items (Tab. 3), sub-items (Tab. 4) and tertiary items (Tab. 5). Main items and sub-items are defined by a 4-digit code[[1]](#footnote-1), tertiary items by a 5-digit code. Their description is contained in *metadata.xls*. As already mentioned, the abridged version (*ASCI\_light*) includes only the main items.

All the following tables are also available in Excel format in *metadata.xls*.

**Table 2**

**Balance sheet schemes**



Table 3

**Main items**



Table 4

**Sub-items**



Table 4 (continues)

**Sub-items**



Table 4 (continues)

**Sub-items**



Table 5

**Tertiary items**

*(sot1\_voce\*; period 1937-1973)*



Table 5 (continues)

**Tertiary items**

*(sot1\_voce\*; period 1937-1973)*



1. When the code has 3 digits, it is preceded by zero (i.e., “voce0300”). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)