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Atypical Employment in Italy

Discussion Paper

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The Institutional Determinants of Atypical Employment and Social Inequality in Europe, founded by the Hans Böckler Foundation and supervised by Jutta Allmendinger, Johannes Giesecke, and Kathrin Leuze



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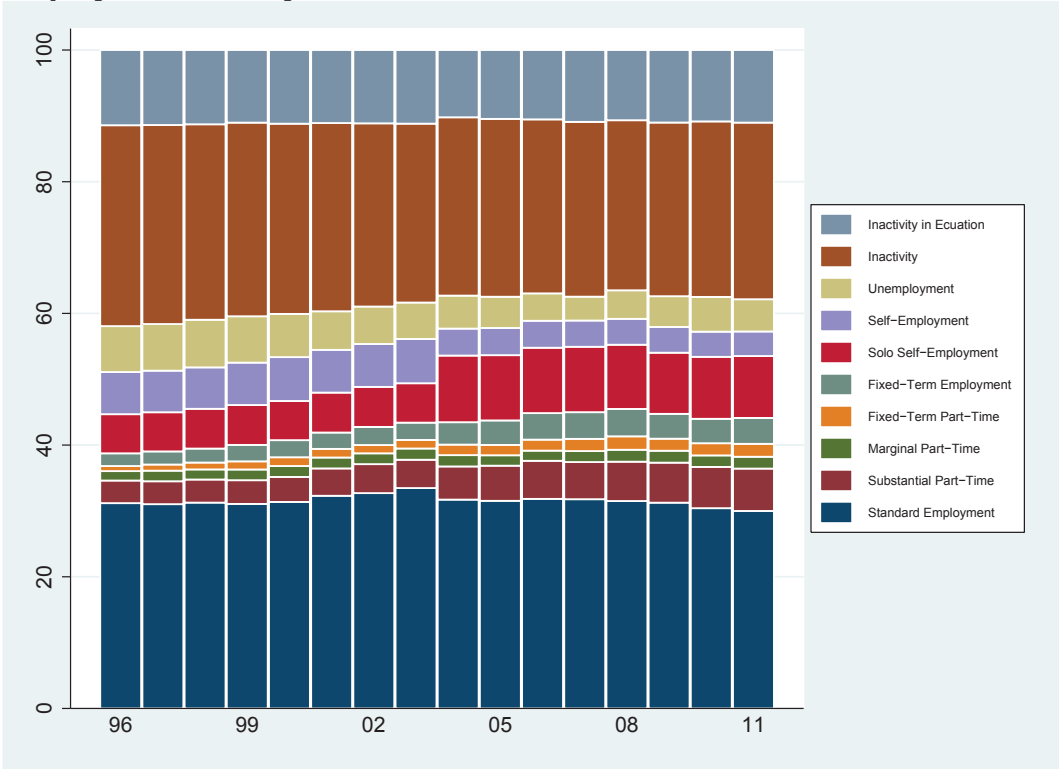
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Italy

The trends in employment in Italy were positive for all the groups investigated until 2008. Although women and older people were better integrated into the labor market in the period under consideration, there are persistently high levels of inactivity for these two groups. The same applies to low-skilled workers. There was little change in standard employment, although this form of employment dropped among low-skilled workers and the under-30s. Atypical employment rose in all groups, particularly for women, moderately qualified individuals as well as in the 15-to-49 age groups. In addition to part-time work, solo self-employment plays an important role in Italy. Only the under-30s are more commonly in fixed-term employment than in part-time employment or solo self-employment. Marginal part-time employment was characteristic for high qualified people. However, marginal part-time fell continuously.

The years of crisis from 2009 onwards had only a small effect. Employment fell slightly in most of the groups studied. The only group that was hit hard was the younger age group, with a drop in employment rates of 6 percentage points.

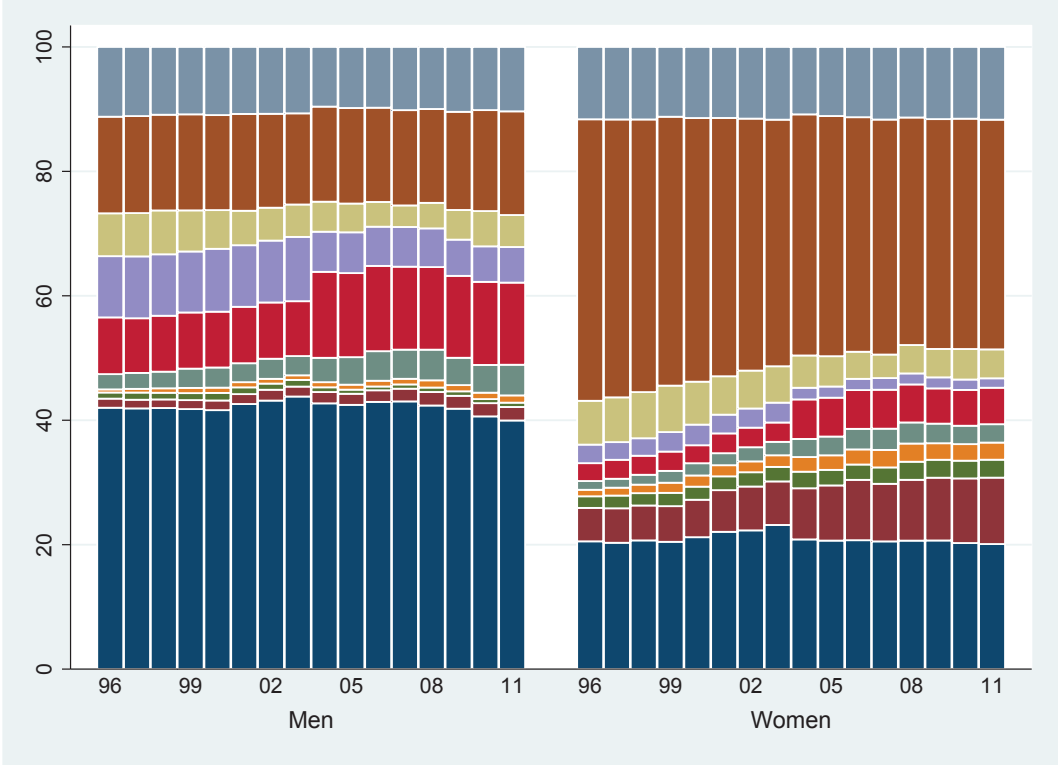
Employment in Italy (1996–2011).



Data source: ELFS (second quarter based on yearly and quarterly surveys).¹³

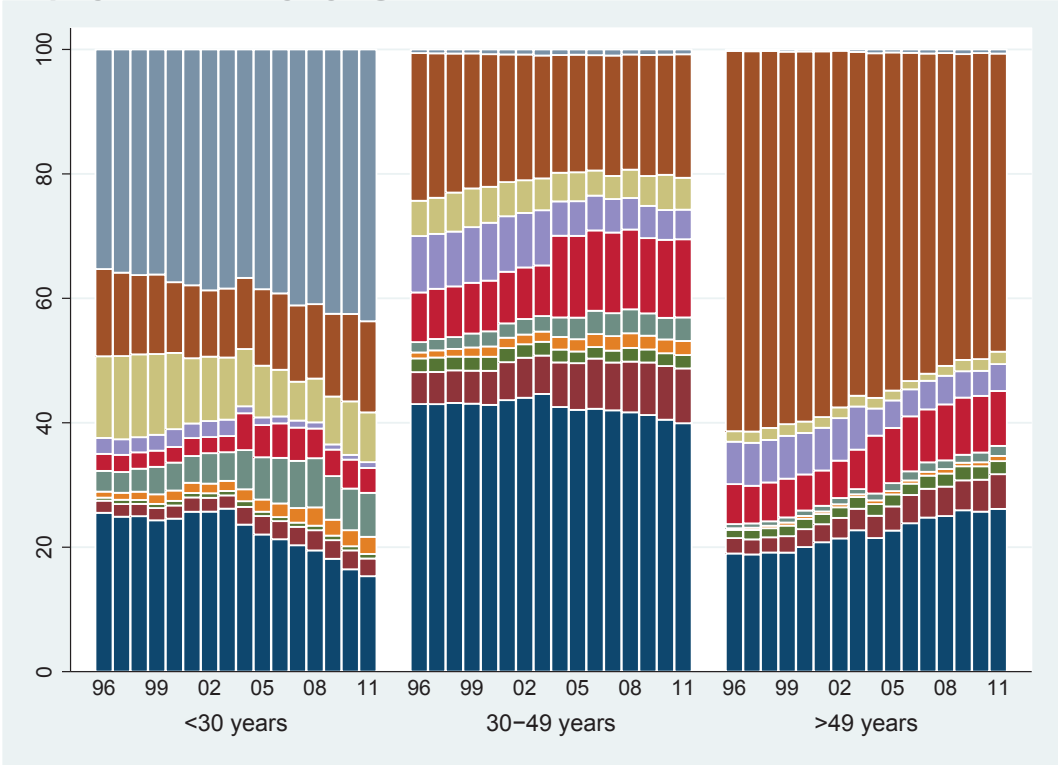
¹³ From the year 2004 onwards there was a shift of people from self-employed to solo self-employed. This may actually be an artifact of the data. The Italian census switched over to a continuous infra-annual survey program and second, changes were made to the questionnaire. Further source details are contained in the respective country tables, which can be accessed on the project website.

Employment in Italy by Gender (1996–2011).



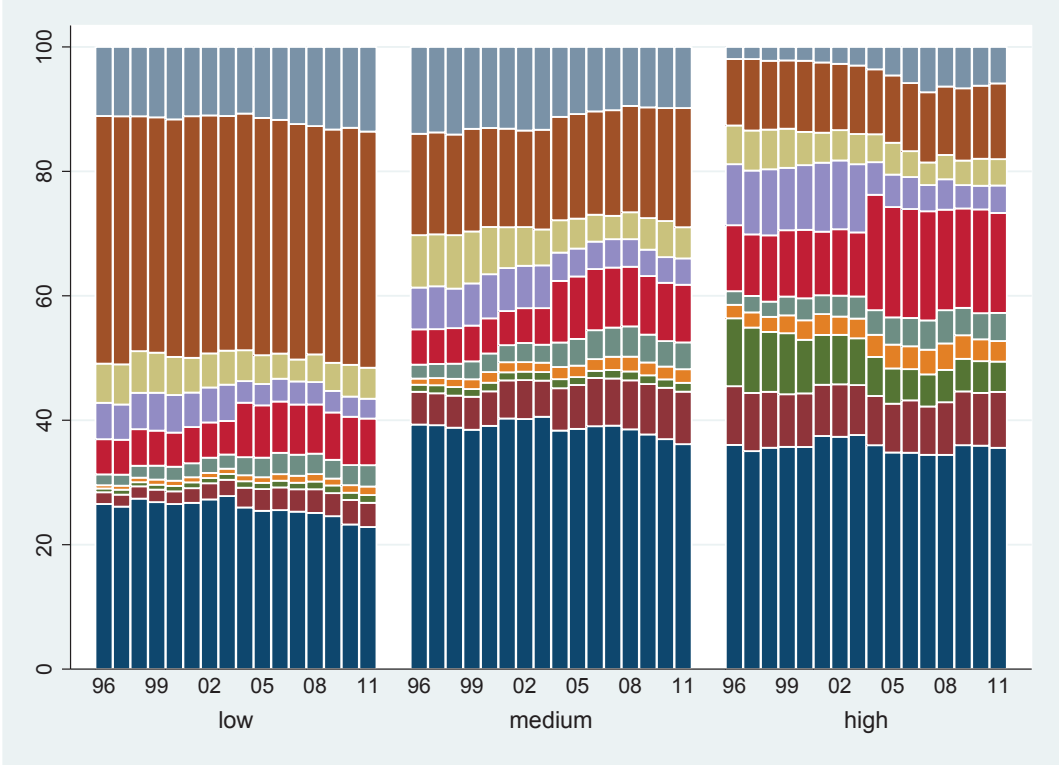
Data source: ELFS (second quarter based on yearly and quarterly surveys).¹³

Employment in Italy by Age (1996–2011)



Data source: ELFS (second quarter based on yearly and quarterly surveys).¹³

Employment in Italy by Education (1996–2011).



Data source: ELFS (second quarter based on yearly and quarterly surveys).¹³

Important terms

The **population studied** includes all people who were of working age (between 15 and 64 years of age) at the time of the survey but excludes those living in collective living quarters (monasteries/convents, hospitals, etc.) and those doing military service.

A person was considered **employed** if they were working in the private or public sector, either in a dependent or self-employed capacity, for at least one hour a week and received a salary, wage, or other monetary remuneration for this.

Individuals were considered **unemployed** if they were not employed but were actively seeking work and were available to the labor market or if they were entering employment within the following three months.

Those who were neither employed nor unemployed were considered economically **inactive**. Inactive individuals who were in education or training were assigned to the inactive **in education or training** category.

A **standard employment relationship** exists when an individual is in a dependent employment relationship for at least 35 hours weekly and has a permanent employment contract.

Marginal part-time employment is employment with fewer than 20 hours a week.

Substantial part-time employment is employment with 20 hours and more a week but less than 35 hours a week.

Fixed-term employment exists when the period during which a contract is valid is limited. We differentiate between fixed-term employment (35 hours and more a week) and fixed-term part-time employment (less than 35 hours a week).

Self-employment exists when an individual's main economic activity is not dependent employment.

Solo self-employment refers to self-employment without employees.

The **educational/skill levels** "low," "medium," and "high" are based on the ISCED classification of qualifications developed by UNESCO.

The aggregated data used in our country profiles can be downloaded from the project's website (www.wzb.eu/atypical). Interested users can also find explanations regarding some of the methodological problems that exist for certain years or variables.