

INDEX OF BUREAUCRACY



2024

Vol. 2 - Country Reports



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This volume presents an analysis of the results collected for calculating the Index of Bureaucracy regarding the opening and legal and formal operation of small businesses in each of the nineteen countries included in the 2024 study.

Its objective is to delve into specific details, highlighting concrete particularities that will guide policymakers, entrepreneurs, and the general public. A breakdown of the bureaucratic procedures and the time required for their completion is also provided for each case.

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Italy



Istituto Bruno Leoni – Giacomo Antonio Lombardi, Francesco Moroni, and Carlo Stagnaro

I. Productive Structure and Representative Company

Italy has a territorial area of 301,340 sq km and a population of 58,853,482 inhabitants (as of December 31, 2022). Its GDP is expected to reach US\$2.328 trillion in 2024, corresponding to US\$39,580 per capita. As a member state of the European Union (EU), Italy's legal framework is heavily influenced by EU directives and regulations, as well as by the limitations set forth in the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) and other treaties underpinning the operation of the bloc. However, despite compliance with EU legislation, much of the bureaucracy and bureaucratic procedures affecting the establishment and operation of businesses in Italy are either unnecessary or excessively complex.

The Italian economy, like that of most EU economies, is dominated by services, although the country still maintains a strong export-oriented industrial sector. The primary sector accounts for 2.2% of GDP, the secondary sector for 25.7%, and the tertiary sector for 72.1%.

According to EU criteria, small enterprises are defined as those with fewer than 50 employees and a turnover of up to €10 million (US\$10.7 million). These businesses represent 99.3% of active enterprises and 63.2% of total employment. For the purposes of this study, the representative productive activities for each sector are assumed to be:

- Primary sector: Independent farmers (coltivatori diretti)

- Secondary sector: Building construction, mechanical industry
- Tertiary sector: Retail stores, hotels, and restaurants or bars

The following section summarizes the obligations that must be fulfilled to successfully establish a limited liability company (società a responsabilità limitata, abbreviated as SRL) according to Italian legislation.

The limited liability company model was chosen because (1) it is a corporation that allows for complete asset separation between the shareholders and the company, and (2) it is the most commonly used structure in business practice, especially by small and medium-sized enterprises, which primarily characterize the Italian capital market.

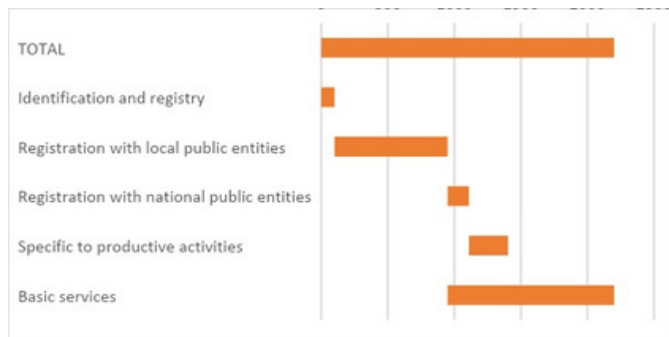
II. Opening Procedures

In Italy, starting a business has become relatively straightforward, and the time required to do so has significantly decreased in recent years, mainly due to the digitalization of the relevant procedures. However, some preparatory steps are necessary to ensure a smooth process. These include preparing the articles of association, reviewing all required certificates based on the type of business, and scheduling appointments with relevant professionals, such as a notary. These preliminary tasks are not included in the timeline provided below.

The most relevant procedures involve registration with local public entities and the activation of essential services, especially in newly constructed buildings. Regarding registration with local public authorities, the time required is not the procedure itself but rather the waiting time for the responsible office to respond. In some cases, a rule of tacit consent applies, meaning that authorization or certification is automatically issued at the end of the legal timeframe (e.g., 30 days).

The following outline summarizes the necessary procedures:

Figure 1. Starting a Business: Bureaucratic Procedures (in hours)



The limited liability company model mentioned above is the most commonly used in business practice, especially by small and medium-sized enterprises. Its regulations are found in Articles 2462-2483 of the Italian Civil Code. The general rules on companies are located in Title V of Book V (Articles 2247-2510).

The main advantage of this model is that it allows for a complete separation of assets between the shareholders and the company, thereby safeguarding the partners from claims by corporate creditors. All shareholders, therefore, benefit from limited liability. Shares cannot represent ownership stakes due to the personalistic criteria by which the company's capital is divided into parts. Instead, there are ownership quotas, one for each partner, of different amounts depending on the capital subscribed by each.

Compared to other limited companies, the minimum share capital required to establish a company is €10,000. However, this threshold can be even lower, as Legislative Decree 76/2013 (later converted into Law 99/2013) allows for the establishment of companies with capital below the legal minimum, as low as €1.

The corporate law reform carried out by Legislative Decree 6/2003 significantly altered the regulation of limited liability companies. The changes were made to simplify and speed up procedures, thus aligning with European Union legislation. The reform has increased the differences between limited liability companies (SRL) and joint-stock companies (società per azioni, abbreviated as SpA), further

emphasizing the personalistic nature typical of small and medium-sized enterprises. The formation of a limited liability company requires several phases, such as drafting the articles of incorporation and the bylaws, contributions from partners, and the filing of the articles of incorporation with the Companies Register (including both the articles of incorporation and the bylaws). In certain cases, additional obligations may be necessary.

The company can be established either by contract or by unilateral act. Most procedures are now digitized and/or can be carried out simultaneously, which has significantly reduced the time and cost required to start a business compared to the past.

The first phase involves drafting the articles of incorporation (atto costitutivo) and the bylaws (statuto). A public notary, under penalty of nullity, must draft the articles of incorporation.

The articles of incorporation must contain the essential elements described in Article 2463, paragraph 2, of the Italian Civil Code. The document must include:

- (1) complete details of the company's partners (whether individuals or legal entities);
- (2) the full address of the company's registered office (which must be in Italy);
- (3) the company's corporate purpose;
- (4) the company name (which must include the designation società a responsabilità limitata) and share capital;
- (5) the shareholders' contributions (either in cash or in kind);
- (6) certain details regarding the company's management body, including the number of directors and personal information (full name, date and place of birth, citizenship, residence address abroad, and photocopies of their passports), as well as their remuneration, if applicable;
- (7) personal information (full name, date and place of birth, residence) of the statutory auditors, if any, and their remuneration. Only Italian citizens meeting specific requirements can be appointed as statutory auditors, and;
- (8) the approximate amount of incorporation expenses to be borne by the company.

The corporate bylaws, which dictate the rules that the company (and its governing bodies) must follow, must also be drafted. The 2003 reform removed any legal reference to the bylaws, but they are still frequently stipulated in practice.

As for the required documentation, different obligations apply to individuals and legal entities.

For SRL companies, partners who are individuals must provide an identification document (either an ID card, passport, or driver's license) and their tax code. If the individual appoints another person to act on their behalf, a certified copy of the power of attorney must be presented. In cases where a disabled person is represented, judicial authorization is required. Non-EU citizens must present a residence permit.

Presidential Decree No. 88/1993 allows for the formation of a single-member SRL, meaning a company with only one partner. Following the 2003 reform, regulations primarily refer to the rules governing single-member SpA. The documentation required for a sole partner is the same as for any individual: identification document and tax code.

Regarding the partners of an SRL who are legal entities (corporations/companies), the legal representative must present their identification document and demonstrate their power of attorney. In addition, a certificate from the Chamber of Commerce and the current Articles of Association are required. Minutes books with signed resolutions are necessary for legal entities with a board of directors. Again, if an attorney-in-fact is involved, a certified copy of the power of attorney must be provided.

In a digital notarial procedure (Ministerial Decree of Economic Development 155/2022), a digital signature or a qualified electronic signature is required for both individuals and legal entities.

The second phase refers to the shareholders' contributions. The value of the contributions cannot be lower than the total amount of share capital. The minimum share capital at the time of incorporation is €10,000. However (unless the company has a single shareholder), it is sufficient to pay at least 25% of the share capital at the time of incorporation. The initial share capital is deposited in a provisional bank account, generally handled by the notary. After incorporation, the amount must be transferred to a bank account opened in the name of the company.

The bank where the share capital is deposited must certify to the notary that the capital has been deposited.

If there is a valuation certificate for the contribution, the partner's contribution can be in kind.

The company's director must personally deposit their signature at the bank. In addition, the same bank account must hold an amount corresponding to the sum of the fees, taxes, stamps, notarial fees, and Chamber of Commerce fees associated with the company's incorporation process.

As for the required documentation, it varies depending on the nature of the contribution.

For cash contributions (over €10,000), if the SRL has several shareholders, the notary must receive a receipt of payment of 25% of the capital to a bank (or to the administrative body designated in the articles of incorporation); in the case of a sole shareholder, proof of full payment of the capital is required.

For capital below the legal minimum, that is, between €1 and €9,999, the contribution must be paid in full in cash at the time of subscription.

Before the 2003 reform, contributions could only be made in cash. Article 2464, second paragraph, of the Civil Code now states that "all assets capable of economic valuation can be contributed." However, the possibility of making non-monetary contributions must necessarily be provided for in the articles of incorporation. For contributions in assets other than cash, an expert appraisal is required to certify the value of the contribution. The appraisal must be carried out by a registered expert.

For real estate contributions, the title of acquisition must be provided along with the cadastral certificate, area maps showing the boundaries, and municipal building permits issued from 1967 onwards (licenses, concessions, authorizations, declarations of construction activity, building permits, expropriation procedures, certificates of occupancy).

For land contributions, a CDU (Urban Destination Certificate) must be submitted.

In the case of a defaulting shareholder who has not made their contributions on time, the administrators will issue a warning, giving the shareholder 30 days to meet their obligations. After this period, the other shareholders may enforce a bank guarantee, if any, to cover the unpaid contributions, exclude the defaulting shareholder from decision-making, or proceed with the sale of their shares.

The third phase involves filing the articles of incorporation (the deed of incorporation and the bylaws) with the

Companies Register.

The notary public must submit the articles of incorporation to the Companies Register within 10 days of their execution, in accordance with Articles 2330 and 2463 of the Italian Civil Code. To do so, the notary must obtain certification from the bank confirming that the share capital has been deposited, along with specific authorization from the company's directors, to proceed with the filing. The company must also apply for a VAT number (partita IVA).

The VAT application must include, among other things, a code identifying the type of activity the company will carry out. Registration with the Register simultaneously enrolls the company in the Chamber of Commerce.

For the company to apply for a VAT number, it must complete the AA9/12 Form provided by the National Revenue Agency. The form requires, among other information, the tax codes of both the owner and the company's representative, and a code identifying the type of activity the company will perform.

As for the required documentation, the notary must obtain the aforementioned bank certification, along with specific authorization from the company's directors, to proceed with the filing.

The company must also: 1) have a certified email address; 2) have a bank account; and 3) before starting operations, submit a specific Certified Start of Activity Notification (SCIA) to the local administration (although applicable laws may require other authorizations or permits).

Regarding the SCIA, the following are required: identity documents, property-related documents, a copy of the articles of incorporation, notification to the Health Authority, technical reports as mandated by law, and the waste tax (TARI) declaration submitted to the municipality.

Decree-Law No. 1/2012, converted into Law 27/2012, introduced Article 2463-bis into the Civil Code, which contains provisions for a new type of limited liability company called a simplified limited liability company (società a responsabilità limitata semplificata, abbreviated as SRLS).

The rules for setting up an SRLS are nearly identical to those for a standard SRL, with a few differences. The SRLS can only be established by individuals with capital ranging between €1 and €9,999. Contributions can only be made in cash, and the capital must be fully subscribed and paid to the management body on the date of incorporation.

The administrative costs are quite modest: the incorporation deed and registration with the business register are exempt from stamp and registration fees. The notary does not charge fees and must provide their services free of charge.

The bylaws must be drafted according to the standard model published by the Ministry of Justice (Ministerial Decree 138/2012). The provisions of this model are mandatory but may be supplemented as long as there are no deviations.

Although the incorporation costs are reduced, the statutory autonomy of the shareholders is limited.

A similar model called a limited liability company with reduced capital (società a responsabilità limitata a capitale ridotto, abbreviated as SRLcr) was introduced by Law 134/2012 but was soon repealed by Decree-Law 76/2013.

Directive (EU) 2019/1151, Article 2, paragraph 3, of Legislative Decree 183/2021 and the subsequent Decree of the Ministry of Economic Development 155/2022 provide that the incorporation of SRL or SRLS can also be done digitally.

The articles of incorporation for limited liability companies and simplified limited liability companies headquartered in Italy, with capital paid through cash contributions, can be executed by the notary through an electronic public deed. To this end, each Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Crafts, and Agriculture publishes standard models of articles of incorporation on its institutional website.

The notary who receives the articles of incorporation submits them to the relevant business registry office in accordance with Article 2330 of the Civil Code.

The actual waiting time before a company can begin its operations may be significantly affected by the time it takes to establish basic services, particularly electricity, gas, water, and telecommunications. For example, connecting to the electrical grid can take several weeks or even months to become operational. This waiting period varies considerably depending on several factors, such as:

- Location: The time required for service connections differs based on the region and whether the company is located in an urban or rural area. Generally, urban areas have better infrastructure and faster service provision.

- Efficiency of the local distribution network operator: The efficiency of local utility companies significantly influences the waiting period. Some regions may offer more streamlined processes and better resources, leading to faster service activation.
- Energy requirements: Companies with higher electricity demands, such as those needing substantial refrigeration (e.g., restaurants) or engaging in energy-intensive processes (e.g., glass, ceramics, or paper production), may experience additional delays. These businesses may require infrastructure upgrades, such as reinforcing the local grid, which could extend the waiting period and increase the underlying costs.

According to the latest Doing Business report on Italy, a typical company (with low energy consumption) can expect to wait between 75 days in cities like Bologna and Rome and up to 231 days in Palermo to obtain an electrical connection. Companies with specific needs related to their activities may face even longer delays.

The time required to establish these basic services, which often depends on the specific conditions of the site and the business, can significantly impact the start of commercial activities, often more than the strictly defined bureaucratic steps. Therefore, it is crucial to consider these logistical aspects and their potential impact on the timeline when planning the launch of a company.

III. Operating Procedures

- Three main areas dominate the operating procedures:
- Employment Administration;
- Operations Administration, mainly balance sheet preparation and tax compliance;
- Other procedures related to safety, security, or specific to the sector are also included. Most of these procedures are digitalized and, on average, run smoothly. However, litigation can be very costly, time-consuming, and create uncertainty if a public authority questions a breach or accuses a company of error or fraud in the performance of their duties.

Figure 2 summarizes the differences between economic sectors with all relevant time data.

The most time-consuming activity is Employment Administration. Figure 2 shows that these activities appear to require more time in the secondary sector, particularly with regard to payroll processing and reporting working hours. This may be due to the fact that companies in the secondary sector tend to be larger than those in the primary and tertiary sectors.

Procedures	Economic Sectors			Average	
	I	II	III	Simple	Weighted
TOTAL (hours/year)	941.1	1,528.0	898.2	1,122.4	1,061.0
Employment Administration	606.0	963.0	660.0	743.0	736.7
Payroll processing	288.0	576.0	288.0	384.0	362.0
Hiring/Firing	38.0	27.0	52.0	39.0	45.3
Labor reports	280.0	360.0	320.0	320.0	329.4
Operations Administration	227.0	234.0	188.0	216.3	200.7
Taxes	227.0	234.0	188.0	216.3	200.7
Others	108.1	331.0	50.2	163.1	123.6
Legal changes	50.0	40.0	20.0	36.7	25.8
Specific by productive activity	58.1	291.0	30.2	126.4	97.8

Special attention must be given to the issue of family work, which is widespread in SRLs, given the personalist principle. Work performed by a spouse or family member is presumed to be free of charge, in deference to the brocard affectis vel benevolentiae causa. However, case law has affirmed in numerous rulings (e.g., Italian Supreme Court of Cassation No. 20904/2020) that, under certain circumstances, there may be a genuine employment relationship subject to the respective regulations. This occurs because the contract is made between a family member and the SRL itself, not between the two relatives.

The Operations Administration, including the drafting of the balance sheet and tax compliance, also requires more time in the secondary sector, followed by the primary and tertiary sectors. The board of directors prepares the balance sheet through collective agreement, which is then approved by the shareholders and submitted to the Companies Register within 30 days.

A portion of the net annual profit must be deducted to constitute the legal reserve. The directors may increase or reduce the share capital as provided in the articles of association. An increase in share capital cannot be carried out until all previous contributions have been fully paid. The actual reduction of share capital can be done by reimbursing shareholders for paid-up shares or releasing them from obligations for any unpaid contributions. Depending on the circumstances, a reduction in capital due to losses may be mandatory or optional.

All tax payments are made online. Depending on their nature, contributions are paid to either the Italian Revenue Agency or the Chamber of Commerce. The time required for payment is minimal and consistent across the three sectors. Other procedures related to safety, protection, or industry-specific regulations may require different amounts of time depending on the nature of the operation. Interviews reveal that safety measures take the most time in the

primary sector, followed by the tertiary sector. Similar results are observed in environmental impact assessments, which are now conducted online.

Many activities are carried out in public spaces, requiring permits. Today, most of the more demanding procedures are done online, making them easier and quicker. Once again, data shows that the primary sector requires more hours to obtain all the necessary permits.

Finally, another activity involves changes to the company's articles of association, which fall under the exclusive competence of the shareholders' meeting in limited liability companies (SRL). Any modification only takes effect when it is registered in the Companies Register after verification of legitimacy by a notary.

IV. Final Comments

The data from the interviews and the regulatory provisions allow for a fairly clear outline of the Italian landscape. The limited liability company model chosen for this report appears to be the most widespread in the country, especially for small and medium-sized enterprises.

The advantages, as demonstrated, are multiple:

1. Lower capital requirements compared to other limited liability companies. The formation of a limited liability company requires only an amount of more than €10,000, which can even be reduced to €1 in the case of simplified limited liability companies;

2. Lower administration costs. There is always an administration according to the terms of the memorandum of incorporation. However, the presence of a dedicated control body is only required if the SRL reaches a considerable size (in the last two consecutive financial years, it must have had assets or revenues of at least €4 million or must have had an average of at least 20 employees) or if it is subject to control by a public body. Since the management control is therefore exercised almost exclusively by the partners, costs are significantly reduced;

3. Greater organizational flexibility. Legislative reforms have led limited liability companies to have unique characteristics compared to other limited companies due to the prevalence of personalist criteria. This possibly authorizes proceeding by analogy to the rules of partnerships. There is also greater protection for individual shareholders;

4. Lower formation costs. The example of simplified limited liability companies, where various stamp duties are waived and the notary is required to provide their services free of charge, aptly illustrates the legislature's intent to encourage the formation of new businesses through tax exemptions.

The procedure for opening limited liability companies has undergone numerous reforms, particularly the general reform of company law carried out by Legislative Decree 6/2003. The intent of the Italian legislature, in its attempts to align with the directives of the European Union, has been to substantially simplify the administrative burden. In this regard, the highlight was the creation of the simplified limited liability company in 2012.

Over the years, there has been a gradual de-bureaucratization through regulatory interventions, even consecutive ones. One only needs to think of the repeal, after just one year, of limited liability companies with reduced capital, which had essentially become a duplicate of existing models. The simplified limited liability company itself, originally intended only for entrepreneurs who had not yet turned 35, underwent profound reforms within a few months to broaden its dissemination.

The procedure for establishing a limited liability company, although complex and requiring numerous documents, develops relatively quickly. Much depends on the notary's work, who can also assist in drafting the deed of incorporation and directly intervenes in the registration phases with the Companies Register. Another temporal variable is the nature of the contributions, with minimum deadlines in the case of cash-only contributions and longer timelines for contributions in real estate. The necessary procedures in these cases complicate the process, but, in general, transactions are carried out smoothly and with few administrative obstacles.

Regarding registration with local public entities, the time required is not for the procedure itself but rather the waiting time before the responsible office provides a response. In some cases, a rule of tacit consent is in force, meaning that authorization or certification is automatically issued at the end of the legal time frame (30 days).

As a policy recommendation, it would be beneficial to have an administrative reform that streamlines Italian bureaucracy. The intent of the Italian legislature in 2012 was not to improve bureaucracy but rather to circumvent it by eliminating specific steps in the formation of companies. Following the guiding principles of European legislation and adhering to effectiveness characteristics, as requested in numerous interviews conducted, the legislature should aim

to intervene at the level of public offices.

A new comprehensive reform could make the business world more accessible to all sectors, leading to a wider dissemination of limited liability companies.

Moreover, it should also be noted that some activities (such as obtaining building permits) can take much longer depending on where a company operates.

The same applies to the activation of basic services, especially if a company has specific needs (for example, companies with high energy consumption, such as restaurants or bakeries, may struggle to obtain electricity). Finally, while many tasks have been digitized, simplified, or expedited, litigation can be longer, more costly, and more uncertain than expected.



ITALY	Economic Sectors			Average	
	I	II	III	Simple	Weighted
OPENING PROCEDURES					
TOTAL (hours)	947.87	2,733.20	1,500.00	1,727.02	1,805.01
Identification and registry	122.00	98.00	99.50	106.50	99.60
Requirement check	24.00	24.00	24.00	24.00	24.00
Draft the articles of incorporation	24.00	24.00	24.00	24.00	24.00
Identify the legal headquarter	24.00	24.00	24.00	24.00	24.00
Incorporation	1.00	1.00	1.50	1.17	1.36
Registration fee	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Stamp duty	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Purchase corporate and accounting books	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tax for the authentication of accounting books	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Activation and Registration of the P.E.C	1.00	1.00	2.00	1.33	1.72
Obtain VAT number	48.00	24.00	24.00	32.00	24.52
Registration with national public entities	40.00	200.00	150.00	130.00	160.48
Obtain the accreditation for providing information about employees	40.00	200.00	150.00	130.00	160.48
Notify the competent Labor Office (DPLMO) of the employment of workers	32.00	24.00	24.00	26.67	24.17
Achieve a first aid certificate	6.00	5.00	8.00	6.33	7.19
Achieve a fire-safety certificate (CPI)	4.00	10.00	8.00	7.33	8.43
Achieve a job safety certificate	4.00	10.00	8.00	7.33	8.43
Job safety training course for employees	12.00	12.00	8.00	10.67	9.11
Safety certificate for basic services (electricity, gas, ...)	2.00	2.00	3.00	2.33	2.72
Registration with local public entities	720.00	720.00	900.00	780.00	849.86
Register company incorporation, and receive tax identification number, VAT number, and register with Social Security Administration (INPS) and Accident Insurance Office (INAIL)	48.00	48.00	48.00	48.00	48.00
Submit the Communication of Activities Beginning (SCIA)	720.00	720.00	900.00	780.00	849.86
Basic services	720.00	1,440.00	1,200.00	1,120.00	1,251.33
Water supply	240.00	1,200.00	480.00	640.00	659.86
Telephone line	480.00	432.00	528.00	480.00	502.29
Electricity supply	720.00	1,440.00	1,200.00	1,120.00	1,251.33
Specific to productive activities	65.87	995.20	50.50	370.52	293.61
Achieve the qualification of IAP (professional farmer)	720.00	0.00	0.00	240.00	15.52
Construction company					
Achieve the DURC	0.00	360.00	0.00	120.00	92.51
Achieve so called "certificato antimafia"	0.00	720.00	0.00	240.00	185.03
Building permit	0.00	2,880.00	0.00	960.00	740.12
Mechanical industry					
Evaluation of acoustic impact	0.00	2,160.00	480.00	880.00	901.39
Evaluation of atmospheric emissions	0.00	2,160.00	0.00	720.00	555.09
Certificates regarding environmental and safety requirements (depends on specific process)	0.00	2,160.00	0.00	720.00	555.09
Sismic analysis of the site	0.00	2,160.00	0.00	720.00	555.09
Safety license for the construction of the site (certification fire safety)	0.00	2,160.00	0.00	720.00	555.09
Mechanical industry					
Achieve a HACCP certificate	8.00	0.00	8.00	5.33	5.94
Achieve a RSSP certificate (for safety procedures)	8.00	0.00	16.00	8.00	11.72
SAB certificate (for restaurants and hotels—must have a licensed chef)	0.00	0.00	0.50	0.17	0.36
SIAE license (for broadcasting music)	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.33	0.72
Achieve a risk evaluation certificate	168.00	168.00	168.00	168.00	168.00
HACCP handbook (manuale di autocontrollo)	84.00	0.00	84.00	56.00	62.41

ITALY	Economic sectors			Average	
OPERATING PROCEDURES	I	II	III	Simple	Weighted
TOTAL (hours/year)	941.10	1,528.02	898.20	1,122.44	1,060.98
EMPLOYMENT ADMINISTRATION	606.00	963.00	660.00	743.00	736.70
Payroll processing	24.00	48.00	24.00	384.00	362.01
Hiring and firing					
Hiring	8.00	12.00	2.00	7.33	4.70
Firing	30.00	15.00	50.00	31.67	40.57
Worktime and reporting					
Accounting and balance sheet	280.00	360.00	320.00	320.00	329.42
OPERATIONS ADMINISTRATION	227.00	234.00	188.00	216.33	200.66
Taxes					
Tax statement	45.00	60.00	52.00	52.33	53.90
VAT statement	24.00	24.00	18.00	88.00	78.69
Certification of employee's income	12.00	20.00	18.00	16.67	18.38
Tax return	24.00	24.00	24.00	24.00	24.00
IRAP [regional tax on productive activities]	-	-	-	-	-
IMU [local estate tax]	2.00	6.00	4.00	4.00	4.47
Chamber of commerce duties	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Stamp tax	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Vehicle taxes	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
TARI [waste tax]	20.00	8.00	4.00	21.33	10.75
Filing financial statements	4.00	8.00	6.00	6.00	6.47
Vehicle insurance	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
OTHER	108.10	331.02	50.20	163.11	123.61
Tax and legislative update and training	50.00	40.00	20.00	36.67	25.79
Specific to productive activities					
Public land fee	2.00	1.00	4.00	2.33	3.19
Sign permits	1.00	-	1.00	0.67	0.74
Shade tax on signs	1.00	-	1.00	0.67	0.74
Business association relationships	40.00	10.00	20.00	23.33	17.86
Agricultural subsidies	10.00	-	-	3.33	0.22
Structural changes to the building	-	-	8,760.00	-	-
Discounts to energy-intensive firms	-	48.00	-	16.00	12.34
Environmental impact accounting	-	200.00	-	66.67	51.40
Other safety and hygiene-related training or updates	-	16.00	-	5.33	4.11
Update on-job safety training course for the employees	4.00	8.00	4.00	5.33	5.03
Acoustic impact and vibrations checks	-	24.00	-	2.64	2.04
Renew fire safety certificate	0.50	0.50	1.00	0.13	0.17

“The results of this significant research offer clear guidelines for politicians and public administrators, not only to promote the quality of life of citizens in a dynamic and competitive economic environment but also as a tool to combat the perverse scourge of corruption, which undermines democratic governance and with it freedom and peace. A must-read for all those who promote development and recognize the value of strong institutions to generate prosperity with intergenerational sustainability.”

Álvaro Uribe

President of Colombia (2002-2010)

“The fourth edition of the Adam Smith Center’s Index of Bureaucracy is a timely and relevant report that zeroes in on the complexity and barriers of starting and running a small business in 16 Latin American and Caribbean, and 3 European countries (Italy, Portugal and Spain), a universe of nations that represents a 10th of global GDP. Qualitatively and quantitatively, the Index offers a sound diagnosis and suggested remedies that can go far in alleviating the constraints that rob individuals and entire communities from enjoying the benefits provided by democratic capitalism in the Western Hemisphere and beyond.”

Jerry Haar

Professor and Executive Director for the Americas College of Business, FIU