



## JOBS: EMILIA ROMAGNA IS THE LEADING ITALIAN REGION, MORE DYNAMIC THANKS TO THE PACT BETWEEN INTERMEDIATE BODIES

A study<sup>1</sup> conducted by the research firm R.U.R. shows that in Emilia Romagna:

- The employment rate of population aged 20 to 64 was 74.4% in 2018, the benchmark for the northern Regions of Italy, higher than Lombardy (72.6 %) and Veneto (71.5%).
- The unemployment rate fell from 8.3% in 2014 to 4.8% in June 2019.
- With the Pact for Employment and the Pact for the Youth, youth unemployment declined from 34.9% in 2014 to 17.8% in 2018. At the same time, early school leaving dropped from 13.6% to 11%, below the northern Regional average and the Italian average of 14.5%.
- The added value per inhabitant, an indicator that shows the level of labour force participation and productivity of employed workers, was the third highest in Italy and 24% higher than the national average, in line with European values.

Bologna, 6 December 2019

A survey<sup>1</sup> of the research firm *Rete Urbana delle Rappresentanze* (R.U.R.) entitled “*Il Valore della Rappresentazione e le Politiche per i giovani nel Patto per il Lavoro dell’Emilia Romagna* (The Value of Representation and Youth Policies in the Emilia Romagna Pact for Employment) was presented in Bologna today. It was sponsored by the **Unipol Regional Board** and conducted in collaboration with the **Emilia Romagna Region**. The findings were debated by **Patrizio Bianchi**, Councillor for the

<sup>1</sup> R.U.R. processing of ISTAT data.

### Unipol Gruppo

Media Relations  
Fernando Vacarini  
T. +39 051 5077705  
pressoffice@unipol.it

Investor Relations  
Adriano Donati  
T. +39 051 5077933  
investor.relations@unipol.it

### Barabino & Partners

Massimiliano Parboni  
T. +39 335 8304078  
m.parboni@barabino.it

Giovanni Vantaggi  
T. +39 328 8317379  
g.vantaggi@barabino.it

coordination of European development, school, professional training, university, research and employment policies of the Emilia Romagna Region, **Pierluigi Stefanini**, Chairman of the Unipol Group, and **Giuseppe Roma**, Secretary General of R.U.R., former General Director of Censis Foundation.

The research<sup>1</sup> shows that the employment rate in Emilia Romagna of population aged 20 to 64 was **74.4%** in 2018, a benchmark among the larger northern Regions of Italy, higher than Lombardy (72.6%) and Veneto (71.5%). The unemployment rate dropped from **8.3%** in 2014 to **4.8%** in June 2019. Thanks to the Pact for Employment and the Pact for the Youth, youth unemployment decreased from 34.9% in 2014 to **17.8%** in 2018. At the same time, early school leaving dropped from 13.6% to **11%**, below the northern Regions level and the Italian average of 14.5%.

Furthermore, the value added per inhabitant, an indicator that shows the level of labour force participation and productivity of employed workers, was the **third highest** in Italy and **24% higher** than the national average, in line with European values.

*“The Region of Opportunities, this is our goal, together with our partners in the Pact for Employment, so that every young person can find their space to grow and build their own future”*, said Councillor **Patrizio Bianchi**.

*“The research highlights that it is strategic for public policies to be able to engage with social forces to build solutions for the benefit of the community. The Unipol Regional Boards, a place where shared value is built with a multi-stakeholder approach, have proven their significance in contributing to the sustainable development of the community”*, said **Pierluigi Stefanini**, Chairman of the Unipol Group.

The Emilia Romagna Pact for Employment and Pact for the Youth contain some peculiar characteristics that differentiate them from previous concertation experiences between institutions and social partners, because they go beyond the simple participation or concertation between the public sphere and entrepreneurial and association players, building a decision-making process together.

The Pact has come to be a general all-encompassing instrument, which also uses “high-level” mediation and is inspired by a general interest. It has become a working tool for the social partners, constituting a barrier to disintermediation in relations between citizens and institutions.

Many recent surveys confirmed the top position, including in numbers, that Emilia Romagna is taking on and the strengthening of the Po Valley partnership between Milan and Bologna. According to Unioncamere (Italian confederation of chambers of commerce), in 2018, four among the top ten Italian provincial districts in terms of value added per capita belonged to Emilia Romagna. Bologna came third after Milan and Bolzano.

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*Media Relations*  
Fernando Vacarini  
T. +39 051 5077705  
pressoffice@unipol.it

*Investor Relations*  
Adriano Donati  
T. +39 051 5077933  
investor.relations@unipol.it

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Massimiliano Parboni	Giovanni Vantaggi
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Such a result was possible for Emilia Romagna thanks to a significant public and private commitment to promoting innovation across the board, resulting in research and development investments rising from **1.68% to 1.98%** of GDP in the three-year period 2014-2017, a percentage well above 1.50% as recorded on average in the northern Regions of Italy.

Institutions and companies worked with special energy to promote training at all levels, from the testing of the dual system, with a serious apprenticeship programme at “Motor Valley” companies such as Ducati and Lamborghini, to Higher Technical Schools, to university education: a commitment rewarded by the findings of the survey conducted by R.U.R.

Moreover, a research carried out with partner organizations belonging to the Unipol Regional Board showed that:

- according to **88.3%** of respondents, the leading role of intermediate bodies and the improved climate of collaboration constituted the benchmark to better cope with Regional business crises and solidify the Emilia Romagna production fabric;
- **17.5%** considered the conditions that stimulate innovation and research to have much improved, to which another **62.5%** should be added that considered the situation to have improved as a result of the actions taken under the Pact;
- the internationalization of the Emilia-Romagna economy was considered to have much improved by **21%** of respondents, improved by **60%**.

Regarding the areas of action included in the Pact for Youth Employment, respondents reckoned that production, skills and human capital were the areas where the best results had been obtained, while the active network for employment and enterprise creation (*Imprenditorialità Maker*), i.e. the programme for educational success that achieved remarkable results by further reducing early school leaving, was reported as an action to be prioritised.

### Unipol Gruppo S.p.A.

Unipol è uno dei principali gruppi assicurativi in Europa e leader in Italia nel Ramo Danni (in particolare nell’R.C. Auto), con una raccolta complessiva pari a circa 12,4 miliardi di euro, di cui 8,0 miliardi nei Rami Danni e 4,4 miliardi nei Rami Vita (dati 2018). Unipol adotta una strategia di offerta integrata e copre l’intera gamma dei prodotti assicurativi e finanziari, operando principalmente attraverso la controllata UnipolSai Assicurazioni S.p.A., nata all’inizio del 2014. Il Gruppo è attivo inoltre nell’assicurazione auto diretta (Linear Assicurazioni), nell’assicurazione trasporti ed aviazione (Siat), nella tutela della salute (UniSalute), nella previdenza integrativa e presidia il canale della bancassicurazione (Arca Vita e Incontra). Gestisce inoltre significative attività diversificate nei settori del recupero crediti (UnipolRec), immobiliare, alberghiero (Gruppo UNA) e agricolo (Tenute del Cerro). Unipol Gruppo S.p.A. è quotata alla Borsa Italiana.

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Adriano Donati  
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investor.relations@unipol.it

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