

PRESS RELEASE

**Banks: ABI, bank robberies dropped by 24% in the first trimester 2008**

*606 bank robberies versus 796 during the same time period in 2007. The total loot and the so-called “risk index” decrease as well, respectively by 24.1% and 23.7%. This is the picture portrayed by Ossif, the Italian Banking Association’s Research Centre on safety.*

Bank robberies decrease. In the first three months of 2008, as a matter of fact, 606 robberies were perpetrated at bank counters, which means a decrease by 24% compared to the 796 robberies perpetrated during the same time period in the previous year. The so-called “risk index” (-23.7%), which is the number of robberies every 100 counters in Italy, is also decreasing, going from 9.7 to 7.4, as is the value of the total loot (-24.1%), going from 15.7 million to 12 million. Furthermore, the average loot per bank robbery remains meagre, and with its amount of approximately 19 thousand Euros, continues to be in line with the values of the first trimester 2007, and among the lowest registered over the past ten years.

These are the main results of the survey of the first trimester 2008 conducted by Ossif, the Italian Banking Association’s Research Centre on safety. The survey will be presented on the 26 and 27 May in Rome, at the “Banks and Safety” convention, during which representatives of the banking sector, together with Institutions and Police Forces, will sum up the situation, and describe new strategies, all the instruments, and the most advanced, modern solutions to ensure ever-increasing safety to individuals, customers, and employees.

The ABI survey reads, “Concerning the phenomenon of bank robberies, Italy, compared to the rest of Europe, is still suffering the consequences of the frequent use of cash, and of the delay using the modern payment instruments available through the banking sector. As a matter of fact, reducing the use of cash would mean not only contributing to the modernisation of the Country as a whole, but also to greater safety in our cities. Tighter collaboration with Institutions and Police Forces in this direction is already producing positive results, as shown by the significant reduction of the phenomenon that was

REGION	1 <sup>st</sup> trimester 2008	1 <sup>st</sup> trimester 2007	Change %
ABRUZZO	16	19	-15.8
BASILICATA	4	4	0.0
CALABRIA	5	11	-54.5
CAMPANIA	34	32	6.3
EMILIA- ROMAGNA	44	105	-58.1
FRIULI- VENEZIA GIULIA	3	3	0.0
LAZIO	59	85	-30.6
LIGURIA	10	32	-68.8
LOMBARDIA	176	196	-10.2
MARCHE	23	24	-4.2
MOLISE	2	0	
PIEMONTE	36	56	-35.7
PUGLIA	40	39	2.6
SARDEGNA	2	9	-77.8
SICILIA	66	79	-16.5
TOSCANA	29	50	-42.0
TRENTINO- ALTO ADIGE	4	5	-20.0
UMBRIA	13	9	44.4
VALLE D'AOSTA	0	1	-100.0
VENETO	40	37	8.1

registered during the beginning of this year”. In the first trimester 2008, as a matter of fact, robberies at bank counters dropped in 13 regions out of 20 (see the above chart).

### **Banks and Police Forces together for the safety of customers and employees**

The safety of customers and employees is a priority to Italian banks, which are currently investing 800 million Euros to continue increasing safety and surveillance in their branches, not only upgrading and enhancing protection measures at the counters and adopting the most modern and effective technology solutions, but also training bank employees and giving customers and employees all the necessary information to know what to do before, during, and after a bank robbery. This is precisely the goal that ABI considered when it created the new edition of the “Guide against robberies” for all bank employees, which, among other information, includes instructions on how to behave during bank robberies, as well as some useful suggestions for preventing a robbery, which take into account the advice of the Police Force and Carabinieri. The common effort of banks and Police Forces for safety at bank counters, however, does not stop here. The results reached in recent years were possible because of their ever-increasing collaboration over the entire territory. As a matter of fact, in 81 Italian provinces the Protocol against crime signed by the Italian Banking Association and the Civil Government offices, whose goal is to strengthen reciprocal collaboration even more, has already been implemented. Furthermore, the working group on bank safety, created by ABI in agreement with the Ministry of the Interior in order to improve prevention of criminal acts, through a continuous exchange of data on thefts and robberies perpetrated on the entire national territory, as well as useful information on defence measures, is already active.