REUTERS GRAPHICS

Lombardy
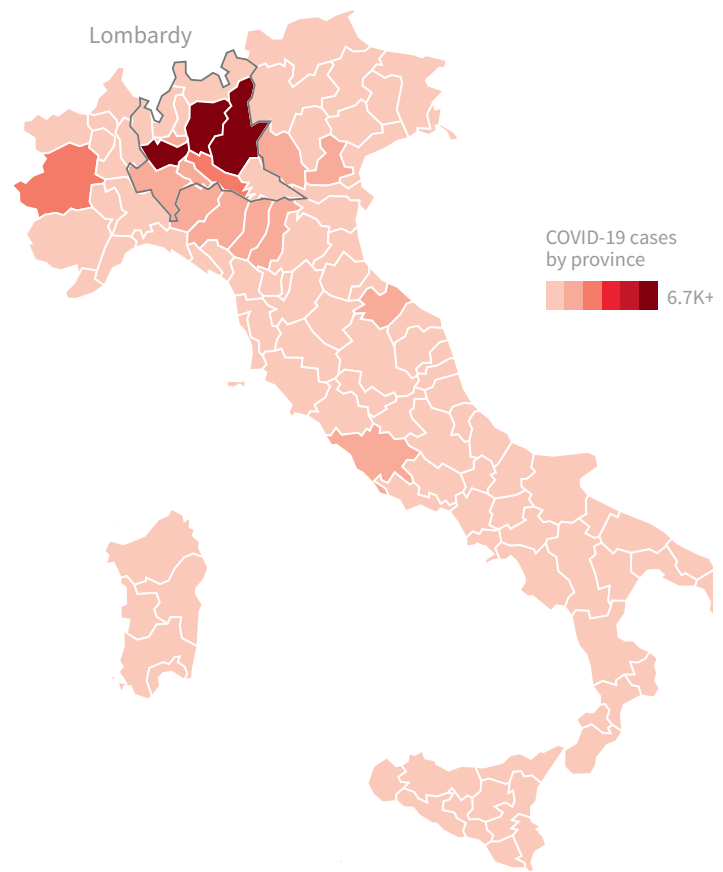
COVID-19 cases
by province

6.7K+

Italy's coronavirus crisis
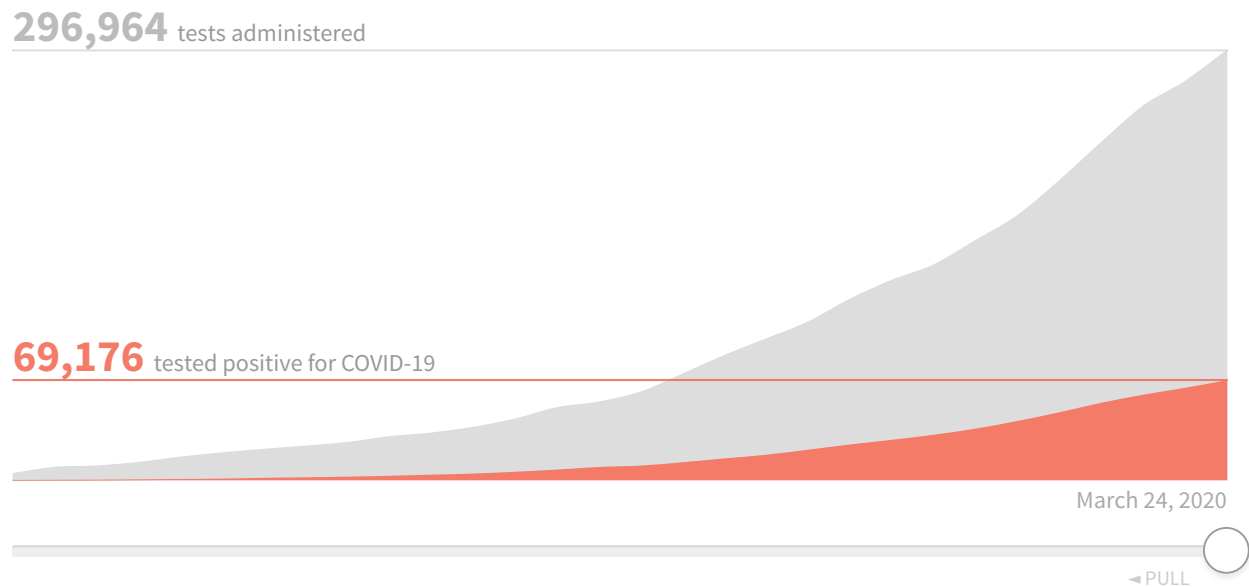
Last updated **March 24, 2020**

743 more people have died from coronavirus according to the most recent data available. That's **the 2nd largest single-day increase** in Italy since the pandemic began, while **5,249** more people have tested positive for the virus.

The new centre of the global coronavirus crisis, Italy has seen some 6,820 deaths and more than 69,176 confirmed cases since the coronavirus outbreak was first reported in the country's wealthy northern region of Lombardy on Feb. 21.
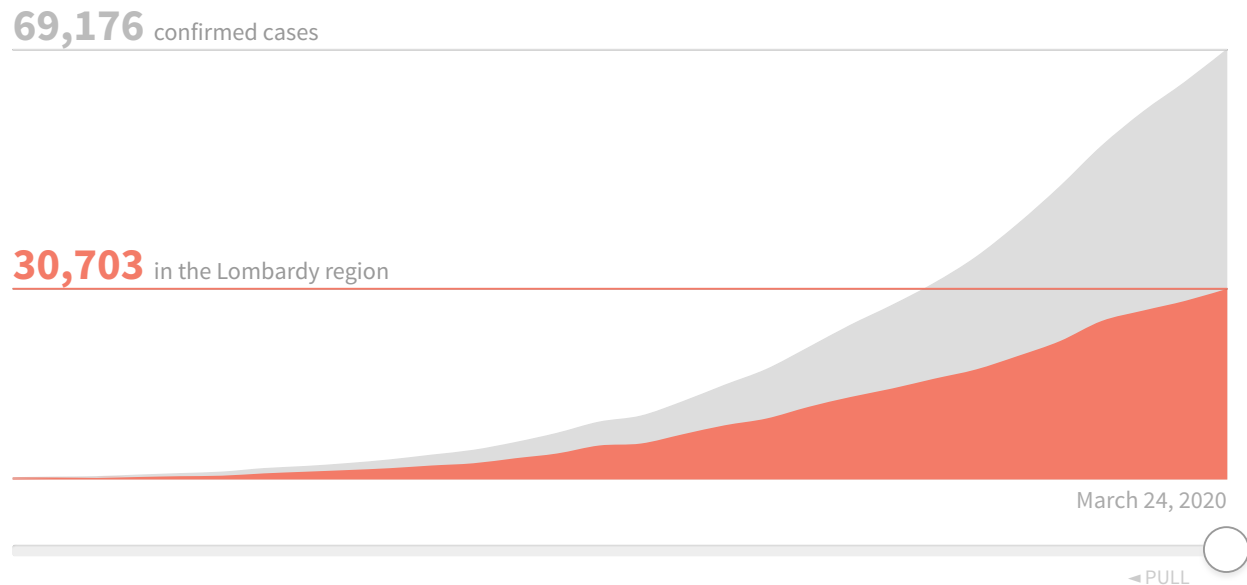
The first two cases confirmed in Italy were a couple in their mid-60s from Wuhan, China, the city at the epicentre of the original outbreak of the disease. They were visiting Italy and were taken to an isolation unit at a medical centre in Rome specialising in infectious diseases and viruses.

Since then 296,964 people have been tested for the virus in Italy.

296,964 tests administered

69,176 tested positive for COVID-19

March 24, 2020

◄ PULL

The highly infectious virus has mainly affected Italy's northern regions, especially Lombardy.

Across Italy, for every 10 confirmed cases of the coronavirus, about 4 are diagnosed in Lombardy, and for every 10 who have died from the virus, about 6 did so in the region.

69,176 confirmed cases
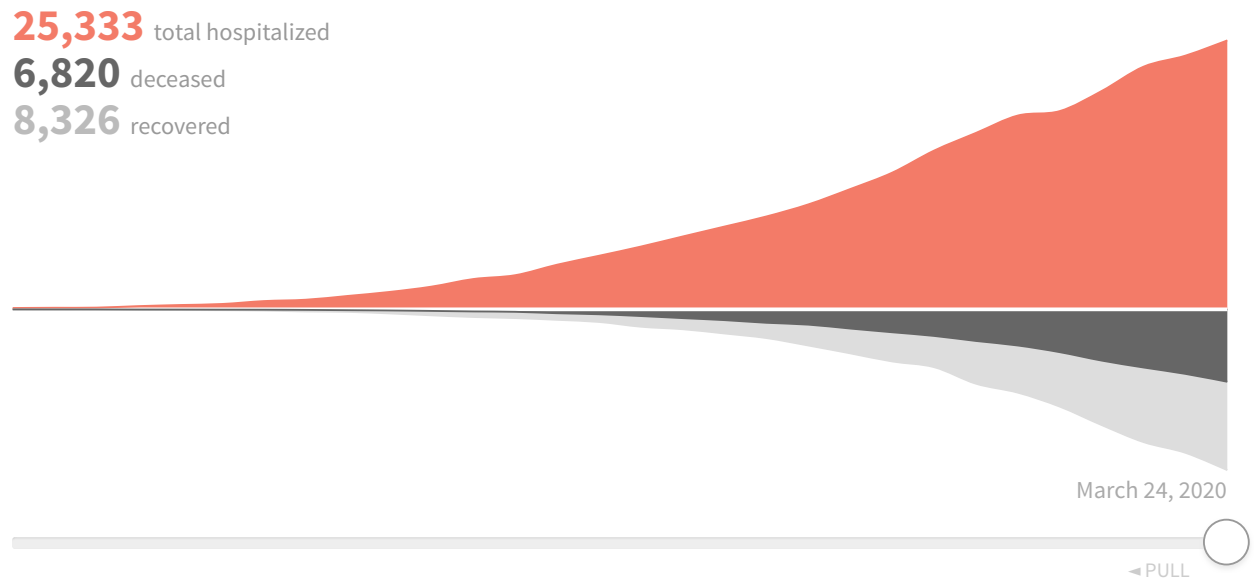
30,703 in the Lombardy region

March 24, 2020

◄ PULL

Antonio Pesenti, head of the Lombardy regional crisis response unit, told the Corriere della Sera newspaper on March 8 that the health system in Lombardy was "a step away from collapse" as intensive care facilities came under growing strain from the new cases:

> "We've emptied entire hospital sections to make space for seriously sick people."

The government is worried that if the current crisis worsens and spreads, the health system in the less-developed south of the country will collapse, causing deaths to spike.

Overall, the coronavirus has hospitalized 25,333 people in Italy, 28,697 have been isolated at home and 8,326 have recovered from the disease so far.

25,333 total hospitalized
6,820 deceased
8,326 recovered

March 24, 2020

◄ PULL

Struggling to cope with the rapid growth of the virus, Conte enacted strict travel and work restrictions, first in Lombardy and then across the entire country. The government told all Italians to stay at home and avoid non-essential travel. Shops and restaurants closed, hundreds of flights were cancelled and streets emptied across Italy:

One way to gauge the extent to which such measures slow the spread of the disease is to look at the number of days it takes the number of infected people to double. The longer it takes, the more effective containment measures may be.

Projecting from the latest data available, the number of confirmed coronavirus cases in Italy is on course to double in about 13 days , compared to a rate of about every 4 days earlier this month. But testing rates can dramatically impact those trends.
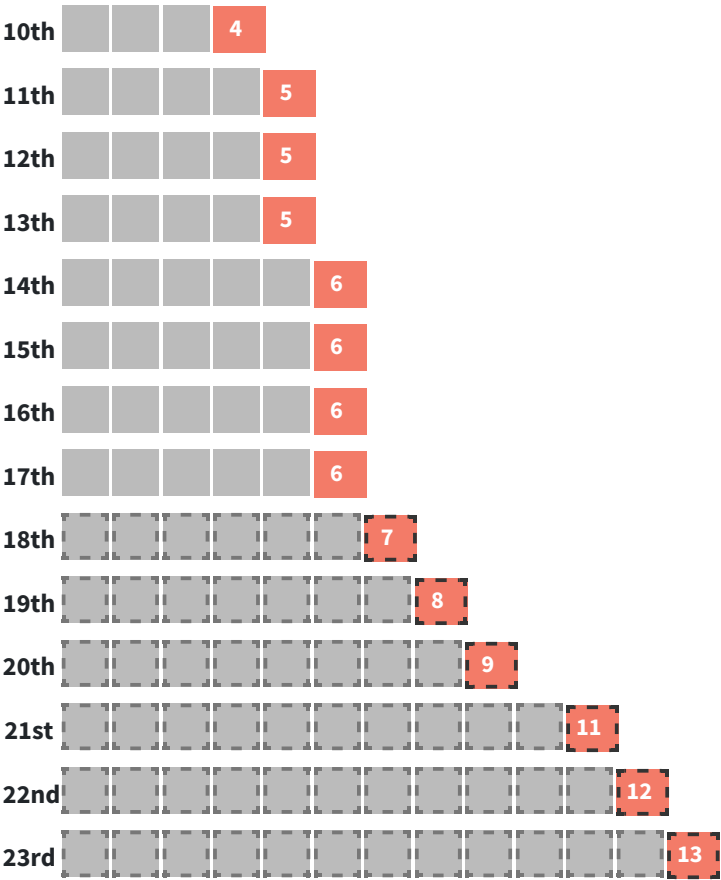
■ Date the number of infected *at least* doubled

▫ Projected based on current daily trend

March

9th ▪ ▪ ▪ ▪ **5**

> On March 9th there were 9,172 confirmed cases of coronavirus in Italy. In 5 days, that number had doubled to 21,157.

> The "red zone" restrictions in the north are extended to all of Italy.

10th ▪ ▪ ▪ **4**

11th ▪ ▪ ▪ ▪ **5**

12th ▪ ▪ ▪ ▪ **5**

13th ▪ ▪ ▪ ▪ **5**

14th ▪ ▪ ▪ ▪ ▪ **6**

15th ▪ ▪ ▪ ▪ ▪ **6**

16th ▪ ▪ ▪ ▪ ▪ **6**

17th ▪ ▪ ▪ ▪ ▪ **6**

18th ▫ ▫ ▫ ▫ ▫ ▫ **7**

19th ▫ ▫ ▫ ▫ ▫ ▫ ▫ **8**

20th ▫ ▫ ▫ ▫ ▫ ▫ ▫ ▫ **9**

21st ▫ ▫ ▫ ▫ ▫ ▫ ▫ ▫ ▫ ▫ **11**

22nd ▫ ▫ ▫ ▫ ▫ ▫ ▫ ▫ ▫ ▫ ▫ **12**

23rd ▫ ▫ ▫ ▫ ▫ ▫ ▫ ▫ ▫ ▫ ▫ ▫ **13**

> On March 23rd there were 63,927 confirmed cases of coronavirus in Italy. Projecting from the latest daily trend, that number is on track to double in 13 days.
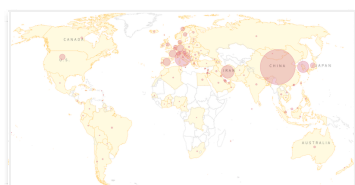
Graphics by **Jon McClure**

Additional work by **Prasanta Kumar Dutta** & **Michael Ovaska**

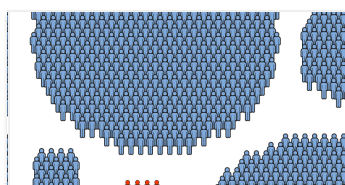Editing by Mike Collette-White

Sources: Italian Civil Protection Agency and Reuters reporting
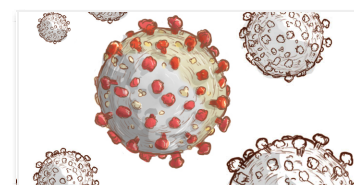
REUTERS

Tracking the spread of the novel coronavirus

Coronavirus empties Italian roads

2019 coronavirus: The Korean clusters

Wuhan outbreak: Genetics of the new virus

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