

Focus on Spanish Society is published by the Social Studies Office of Funcas. The aim of this publication is to depict the Spanish social situation and provide brief insights into some of its most relevant aspects. *Focus on Spanish Society* consists of three sections. The first one, “Spain in Europe”, draws attention to recently published statistical data and puts the Spanish case in comparative perspective. The second section, “Public opinion trends”, examines in more detail one particular social issue as perceived by the Spanish public and manifested through opinion surveys. Finally, the third section “Follow-up social data” presents several social indicators related to demography and families, labour market and education, health and welfare benefits and services.

Section I. Spain in Europe

- I.1. Social protection as the most significant and fluctuating component of government expenditure over time
- I.2. Living in (not overcrowded) flats

Section II. Public opinion trends

- Women’s mental health during the pandemic

Section III. Follow-up social data

- Population, households and families, labour market, education and social protection

Section I. Spain in Europe

I.1. Social protection as the most significant and fluctuating component of government expenditure over time

Government expenditure varies significantly among European countries. Following the empirical distinction established here [<https://www.funcas.es/wp-content/uploads/Migracion/Publicaciones/PDF/2700.pdf>], recently released data from Eurostat allow for the classification of countries into three groups according to their percentage of government expenditure in terms of GDP in 2019: (1) < 40% of GDP, (2) 40%-47% of GDP (the Euro area average being 47%); and, (3) > 47% of GDP. As in 2019, Ireland and France remain the countries with the lowest (24.5% of GDP) and highest (55.6% of GDP) government expenditure, respectively. The spread between both was in 2019 the highest since the beginning of this century, amounting to more than 30 percentage points (Figure I.1).

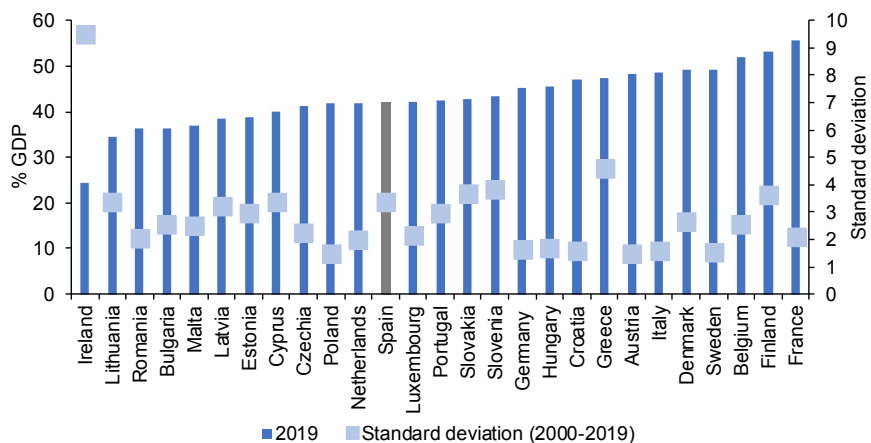
At 42.1% of GDP (523,441 million euro), Spain ranks at the lowest level of the second group, together with Poland (41.8%), The Netherlands (42%), Luxembourg (42.2%) and Portugal (42.5%). Government expenditure in Spain has oscillated since 2000 quite a lot (standard deviation equals 3) mostly as a consequence of GDP variability. In years of economic expansion, government expenditure dropped to levels lower than 40% of GDP (2000-2007), while in years of economic contraction (2009-2014), it rose above 45% (with a peak in 2012, when it increased significantly to 48.7%) (Figure I.2).

Economic recovery after the Great Recession (and subsequent GDP growth) explains to a considerable extent the decrease of government expenditure in terms of GDP in all European countries between 2009 and 2019 (Figure I.3). However, some drops are particularly noteworthy, first and foremost in Ireland, but also in Greece, Portugal, Denmark and The Netherlands.

A closer look at the evolution of government expenditure assigned to broad objectives allows for the identification of social protection not only

Figure I.1

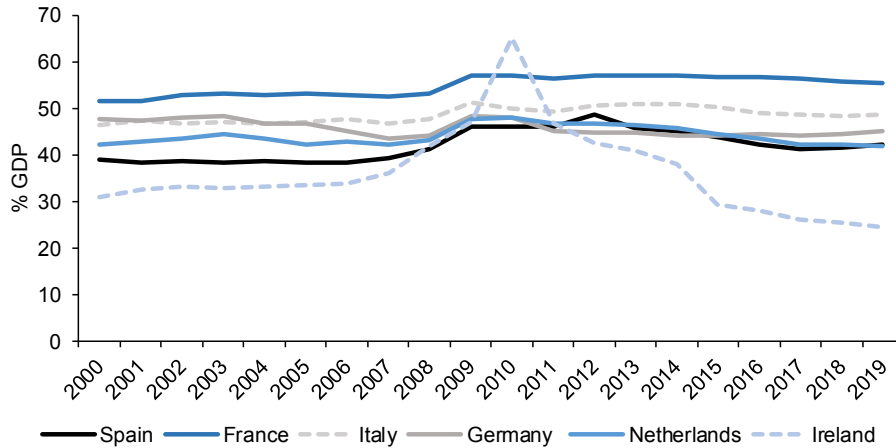
Total general government expenditure as a percentage of GDP (2019) and standard deviation (2000-2019)



Source: Eurostat [gov_10a_exp].

Figure I.2

Total general government expenditure as a percentage of GDP (selected European countries, 2000-2019)



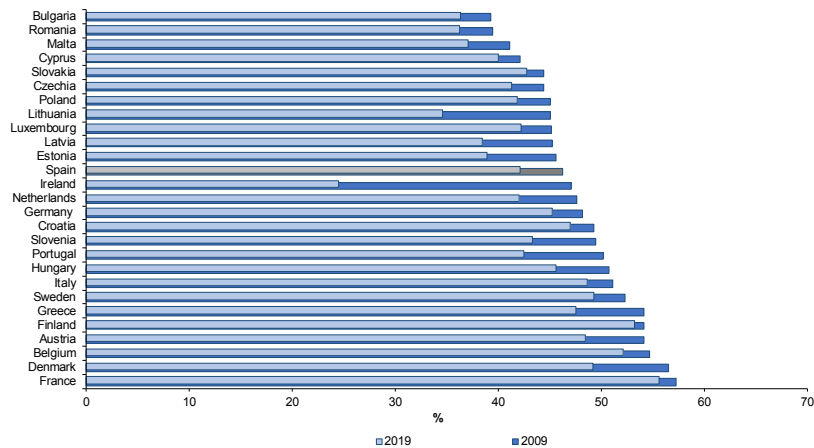
Source: Eurostat [gov_10a_exp].

as the highest, but also as the most fluctuating, component of government expenditure over time in European countries (as exemplified in Figures I.4a-I.4e). In Spain, public expenditure on defense and on public order and safety has

remained noticeably stable (in relation to GDP) between 2000 and 2019 (around 1% and 2%, respectively). Government expenditure on education as a percentage of GDP also displays considerable stability since the beginning of the

Figure I.3

Total general government expenditure as a percentage of GDP (2000 and 2019)



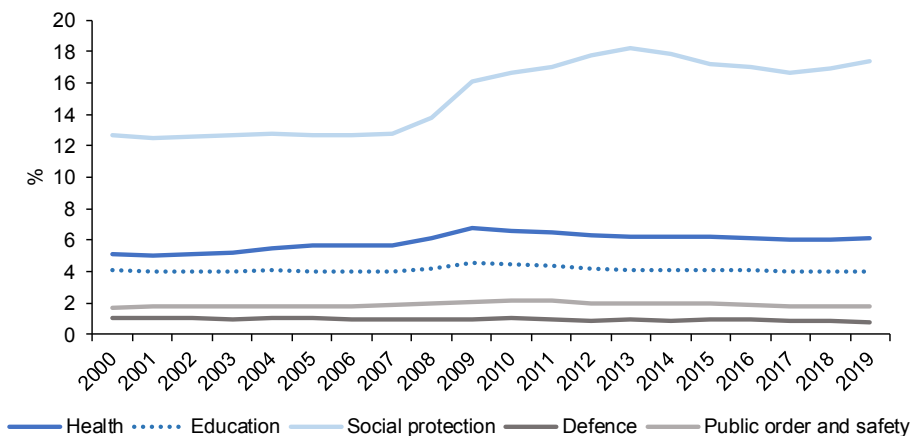
Source: Eurostat [gov_10a_exp].

century. By contrast, public expenditure on health care shows an upward trend. But social protection (including pensions and unemployment benefits and subsidies, among other allowances) is the function presenting the strongest fluctuations and, consequently, more forecasting difficulties (Figure I.4a).

In Spain, social protection expenditure was on the rise when the COVID-19 pandemic started. The fall in GDP, together with a huge deployment of anti-crisis measures to mitigate the economic impact of COVID-19, will certainly increase public expenditure on social protection in 2020.

Figure I.4a

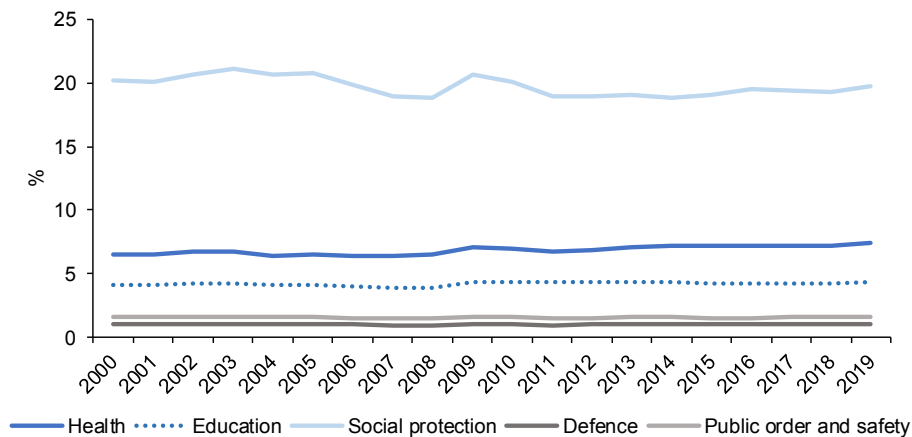
Government expenditure by functions (Spain, 2000-2019)



Source: Eurostat [gov_10a_exp].

Figure I.4b

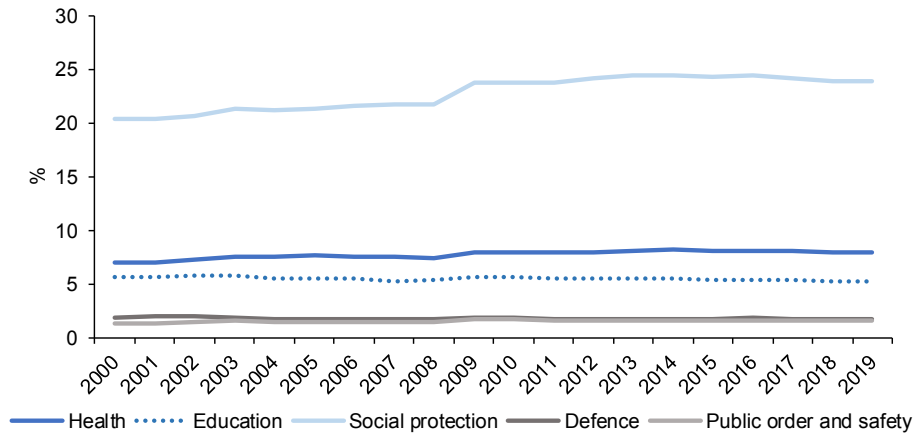
Government expenditure by functions (Germany, 2000-2019)



Source: Eurostat [gov_10a_exp].

Figure I.4c

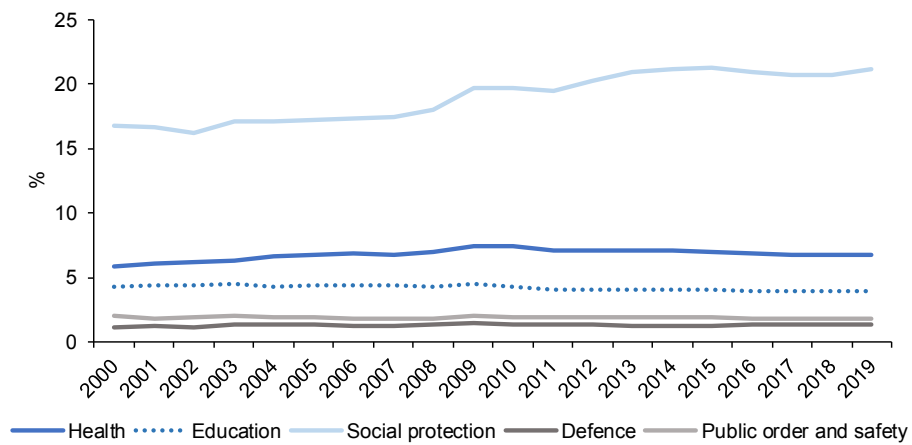
Government expenditure by functions (France, 2000-2019)



Source: Eurostat [gov_10a_exp].

Figure I.4d

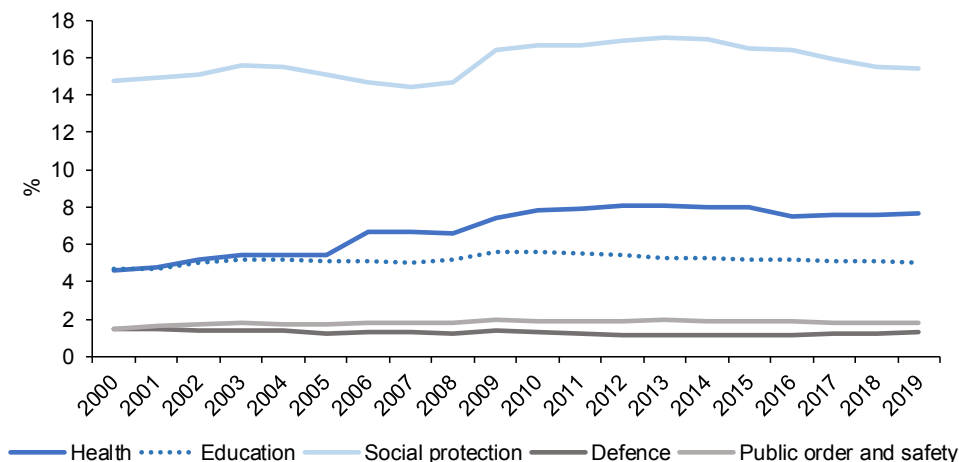
Government expenditure by functions (Italy, 2000-2019)



Source: Eurostat [gov_10a_exp].

Figure I.4e

Government expenditure by functions (The Netherlands, 2000-2019)



Source: Eurostat [gov_10a_exp].

I.2. Living in (not overcrowded) flats

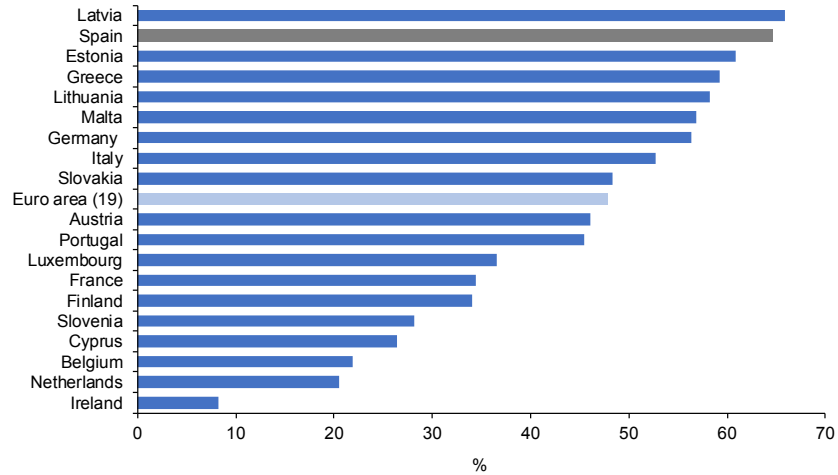
The pandemic has powerfully underscored the importance of the type of housing in which people reside. Living in a detached (or semi-detached) home facilitates spending time outdoors without infringing on lockdown restrictions and may have therefore impacted subjective well-being during the health emergency. It is sensible to assume that confinement measures and social mobility restrictions have been easier to endure for people living in houses than for people living in flats. Following this line of thought, European societies may have experienced life during the pandemic very differently depending on their housing patterns.

In this respect, statistics clearly show the prevalence of flats in Spain. In 2019, nearly

two thirds of the total population (65%) resided in this type of housing, the second biggest share among the Euro area countries (Fig. I.5). In Greece (59%), Germany (56%) and Italy (53%), the majority of the population also lived in flats, but in these three countries the percentage of people residing in buildings with ten or more dwellings was much lower than in Spain (45%) (Fig. I.6). Thus, Spain stands out for the high proportion of people living in mid-rise and high-rise buildings.

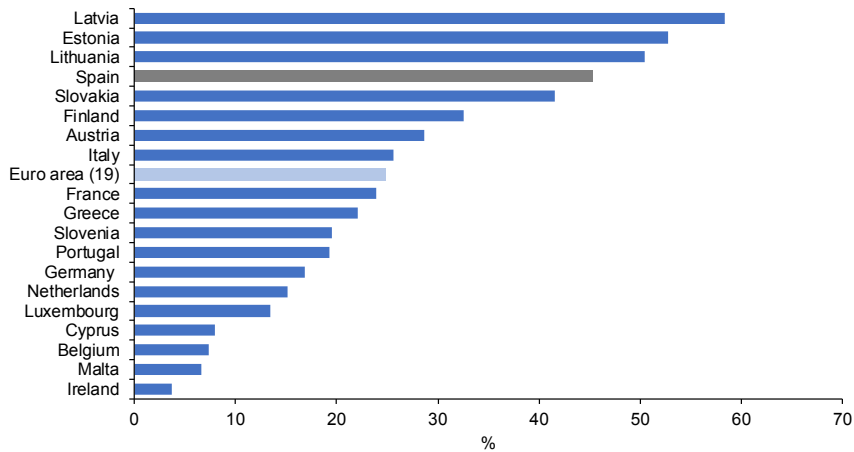
In spite of this typically Spanish housing pattern, the share of the population living in overcrowded households in Spain is much lower than in other countries (6%), while the share of the population living in under-occupied dwellings is much higher (55%) (Figure I.7). Hence, dwelling in flats is not equivalent to reduced domestic living space. In other words, residential concentration in buildings does not mean household congestion.

Figure I.5

Type of housing in cities or rural areas: flats (Euro area, 2019)

Source: Eurostat [ilc_lvho01].

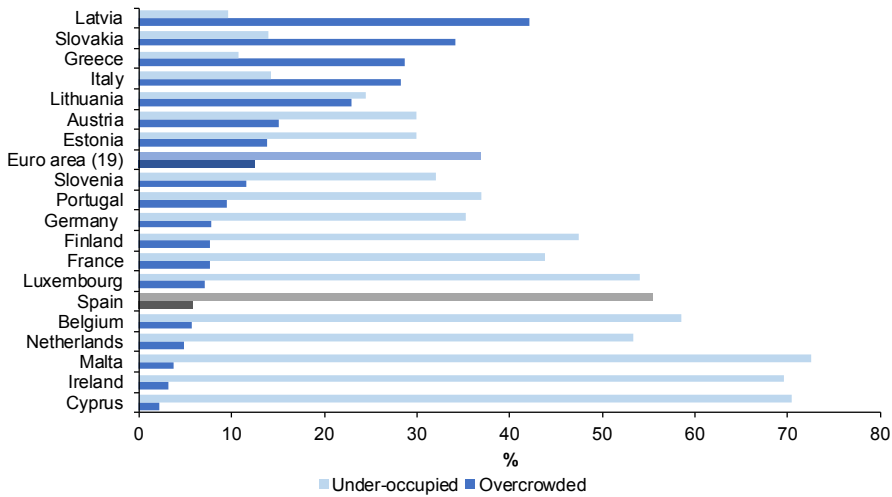
Figure I.6

People residing in buildings with ten or more dwellings (Euro area, 2019)

Source: Eurostat [ilc_lvho01].

Figure I.7

People residing in overcrowded and underoccupied homes



Note: According to Eurostat, a dwelling is considered (minimally) adequate if it has one room for the household, one room per couple, one room for each single person aged 18 or more, one room per pair of single people aged 12-17 of the same gender, one room for each single person aged 12-17 of different gender, one room per pair of children under 12. Overcrowded dwellings are those which have less than this number of rooms. Under-occupied dwellings are those which have more than this number of rooms.

Source: Eurostat [ilc_lvho01].

Section II. Public opinion trends

Women’s mental health during the pandemic

The World Health Organization has defined “fear, worry and stress” as normal experiences in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. But like many other variables related with the multifarious impacts of this pandemic, these experiences are very unevenly distributed among the population.

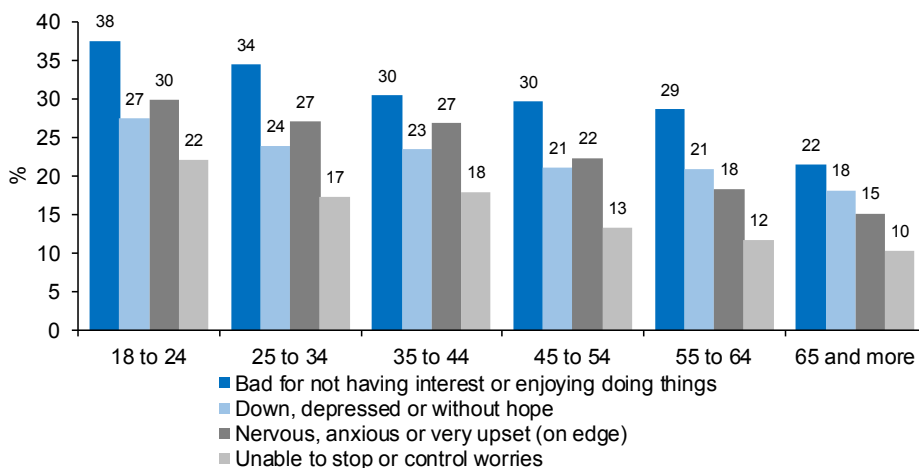
According to recently released data by the Spanish Center for Sociological Research (CIS) and contrary to expectations, feelings of uneasiness, anxiety and depression have been more widespread among younger people (Figure II.1). More than a third of interviewees aged 18 to 34 have suffered during the pandemic a lack of interest to do things, and more than a quarter

have felt depressed, hopeless or nervous. Among people 65 and older, the corresponding shares oscillate between 15%-20%.

However, it is not age, but rather gender, the variable which makes the most important difference. As shown in Figure II.2, the percentage of women having felt uneasy, anxious or depressed is nearly double the proportion of men declaring these problems. Fear seems to be one important driver of this mental malaise. The results of a survey question trying to measure the prevalence of fear and concern shows women systematically more affected by this feeling (Figure II.3). Contagion, illness and death, but also job or income loss, are definitely feared more by women than by men. Likewise, fear for family members and friends is more widespread among women. In sum, while epidemiological research has evidenced the higher morbidity and mortality rates of males, data suggest that in terms of mental health, the pandemic has taken a heavier toll on women than on men.

Figure II.1

Feelings of uneasiness, anxiety and depression during the pandemic, by age groups (February 2021)

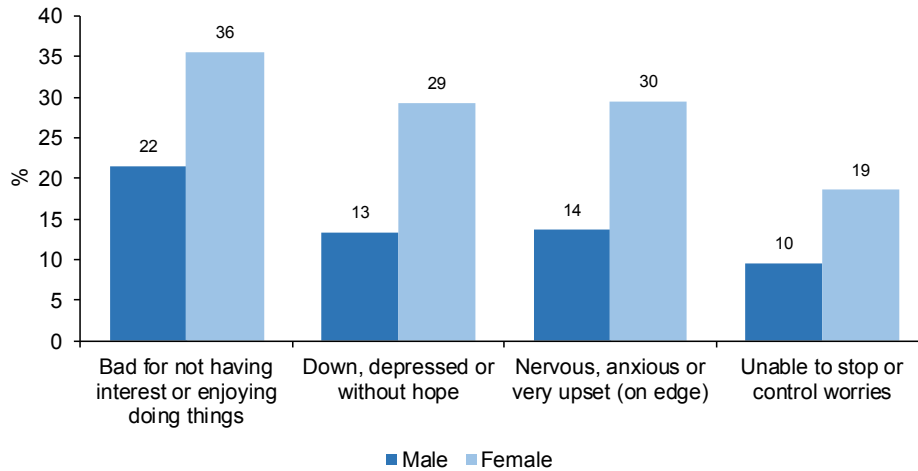


Question: “How often have you felt during the pandemic...? (Many days, several days, some days, never)”.

Source: CIS, 3312 (www.cis.es).

Figure II.2

Feelings of uneasiness, anxiety and depression during the pandemic, by gender (February 2021)

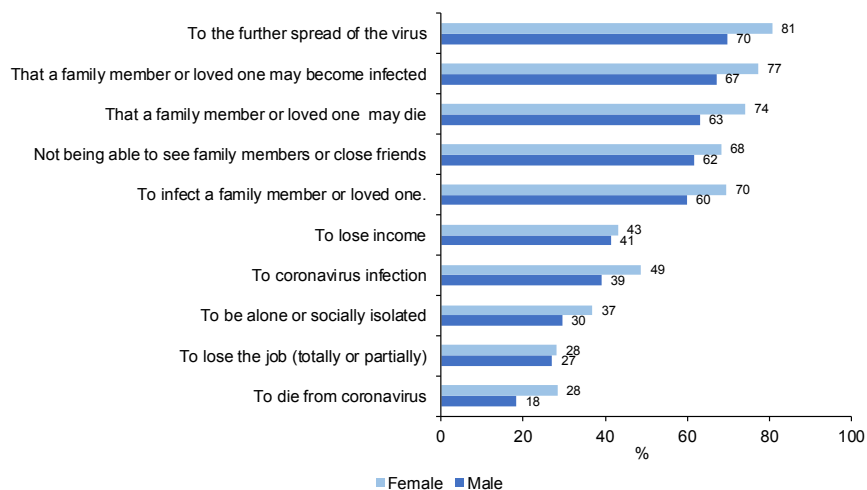


Question: "How often have you felt during the pandemic...? (Many days, several days, some days, never)".

Source: CIS, 3312 (www.cis.es).

Figure II.3

Feelings of fear, by gender (February 2021)



Question: "And could you tell me how much fear or concern have you felt as regards the following situations related with the COVID-19 pandemic? (Much, fairly, some, little, not at all)".

Source: CIS, 3312 (www.cis.es).

Section III. Follow-up social data

Table III.1

Population

	Total population	Average age	65 and older (%)	Life expectancy at birth (men)	Life expectancy at birth (women)	Dependency rate	Dependency rate (older than 64)	Foreign-born population (%)	New entries (all nationalities)	New exits (born in Spain)
2008	46,157,822	40.8	16.5	78.2	84.3	47.5	24.5	13.1	701,997	33,053
2010	47,021,031	41.1	16.9	79.1	85.1	48.6	25.0	14.0	441,051	39,211
2012	47,265,321	41.6	17.4	79.4	85.1	50.4	26.1	14.3	344,992	51,666
2014	46,771,341	42.1	18.1	80.1	85.7	51.6	27.4	13.4	368,170	66,803
2015	46,624,382	42.4	18.4	79.9	85.4	52.4	28.0	13.2	417,655	74,873
2016	46,557,008	42.7	18.6	80.3	85.8	52.9	28.4	13.2	492,600	71,508
2017	46,572,132	42.9	18.8	80.4	85.7	53.2	28.8	13.3	592,604	63,754
2018	46,722,980	43.1	19.1	80.5	85.9	53.6	29.3	13.7	715,255	56,745
2019	47,026,208	43.3	19.3	80.9	86.2	53.7	29.6	14.4	827,052	61,338
2020	47,450,795	43.6	19.4			53.5	29.8	15.2		
Sources	EPC	EPC	EPC	ID INE	ID INE	EPC	EPC	EPC	EVR	EVR

EPC: *Estadística del Padrón Continuo*.

ID INE: *Indicadores Demográficos INE*.

EVR: *Estadística de Variaciones Residenciales*.

Dependency rate: (15 or less years old population + 65 or more years old population)/ 16-64 years old population, as a percentage.

Dependency rate (older than 64): 65 or more years old population/ 16-64 years old population, as a percentage.

Table III.2

Households and families

Households

	Households (thousands)	Average household size	Households with one person younger than 65 (%)	Households with one person older than 65 (%)
2008	16,742	2.71	12.0	10.2
2010	17,174	2.67	12.8	9.9
2012	17,434	2.63	13.7	9.9
2014	18,329	2.51	14.2	10.6
2015	18,376	2.54	14.6	10.7
2016	18,444	2.52	14.6	10.9
2017	18,512	2.52	14.2	11.4
2018	18,581	2.51	14.3	11.5
2019	18,697	2.52	14.9	11.2
2020	18,794	2.52		
Sources	LFS	LFS	EPF	EPF

Table III.2

Households and families (continued)

Nuptiality						
	People getting married (per 1,000) (Spanish)	People getting married (per 1,000) (foreign population)	Divorce rate (per 1,000)	Mean age at first marriage (men)	Mean age at first marriage (women)	Same sex marriages (%)
2008	8.5	8.4	2.39	32.4	30.2	1.62
2010	7.2	7.9	2.21	33.2	31.0	1.87
2012	7.2	6.7	2.23	33.8	31.7	2.04
2014	6.9	6.5	2.17	34.4	32.3	2.06
2015	7.3	6.5	2.08	34.8	32.7	2.26
2016	7.5	6.8	2.08	35.0	32.9	2.46
2017	7.3	6.9	2.10	35.3	33.2	2.67
2018	7.1	6.6	2.04	35.6	33.4	2.90
2019	7.1	6.7				
<i>Sources</i>	ID INE	ID INE	ID INE	ID INE	ID INE	MNP

Fertility						
	Median age at first child (women)	Total fertility rate (Spanish women)	Total fertility rate (foreign women)	Births to single mothers (%)	Abortion rate	Abortion by Spanish-born women (%)
2008	29.3	1.36	1.83	33.2	11.8	55.6
2010	29.8	1.30	1.68	35.5	11.5	58.3
2012	30.3	1.27	1.56	39.0	12.0	61.5
2014	30.6	1.27	1.62	42.5	10.5	63.3
2015	30.7	1.28	1.66	44.4	10.4	65.3
2016	30.8	1.27	1.70	45.8	10.4	65.8
2017	30.9	1.24	1.70	46.8	10.5	66.1
2018	31.0	1.20	1.65	47.3	11.1	65.3
2019	31.1	1.17	1.59	48.4		
<i>Sources</i>	ID INE	ID INE	ID INE	ID INE	MSAN	MSAN

LFS: *Labour Force Survey*.

EPF: *Encuesta de Presupuestos Familiares*.

ID INE: *Indicadores Demográficos INE*.

CGPJ: *Consejo General del Poder Judicial*.

MSAN: *Ministerio de Sanidad, Servicios Sociales e Igualdad*.

MNP: *Movimiento Natural de la Población*.

Marriage rate: *Number of marriages per thousand population*.

Divorce rate: *Number of divorces per thousand population*.

Total fertility rate: *The average number of children that would be born per woman living in Spain if all women lived to the end of their childbearing years and bore children according to a given fertility rate at each age*.

Abortion rate: *Number of abortions per 1,000 women (15-44 years)*.

Table III.3

Education

Educational attainment				
	Population 16 years and older with primary education (%)	Population 30-34 with primary education (%)	Population 16 years and older with tertiary education (%)	Population 30-34 with tertiary education (%)
2008	32.1	9.2	16.1	26.9
2010	30.6	8.6	17.0	27.7
2012	28.5	7.5	17.8	26.6
2014	24.4	6.1	27.2	42.3
2015	23.3	6.6	27.5	40.9
2016	22.4	6.6	28.1	40.7
2017	21.4	6.6	28.5	41.2
2018	20.5	6.4	29.2	42.4
2019	19.3	6.3	30.3	44.7
2020	17.7	6.1	31.3	44.8
<i>Source</i>	LFS	LFS	LFS	LFS

Students involved in non-compulsory education

	Pre-primary education	Secondary education	Vocational training	Under-graduate students	Post-graduate students (except doctorate)
2008	1,763,019	629,247	472,604	1,377,228	50,421
2010	1,872,829	672,213	555,580	1,445,392	104,844
2012	1,912,324	692,098	617,686	1,450,036	113,805
2014	1,840,008	690,738	652,846	1,364,023	142,156
2015	1,808,322	695,557	641,741	1,321,698	171,043
2016	1,780,377	687,595	652,471	1,303,252	190,143
2017	1,767,179	676,311	667,984	1,287,791	209,754
2018	1,750,106	667,287	675,942	1,293,892	214,528
<i>Source</i>	MECD	MECD	MECD	MECD	MECD

Education expenditure

	Public expenditure (thousands of €)	Public expenditure (% GDP)
2008	51,716,008	4.63
2010	53,099,329	4.91
2012	46,476,414	4.47
2014	44,846,415	4.32
2015	46,597,784	4.31
2016	47,578,997	4.25
2017	49,458,049	4.24
2018	50,807,185	4.23
<i>Sources</i>	MECD	INE

LFS: *Labour Force Survey*.MECD: *Ministerio de Educación, Cultura y Deporte*.INE: *Instituto Nacional de Estadística*.

Table III.4

Social protection: Benefits**Contributory benefits***

	Unemployment		Retirement		Permanent disability		Widowhood	
	Total	Total	Average amount (€)	Total	Average amount (€)	Total	Average amount (€)	
2008	1,100,879	4,936,839	814	906,835	801	2,249,904	529	
2010	1,471,826	5,140,554	884	933,730	850	2,290,090	572	
2012	1,381,261	5,330,195	946	943,296	887	2,322,938	602	
2014	1,059,799	5,558,964	1000	929,484	916	2,348,388	624	
2015	838,392	5,641,908	1,021	931,668	923	2,353,257	631	
2016	763,697	5,731,952	1,043	938,344	930	2,364,388	638	
2017	726,575	5,826,123	1,063	947,130	936	2,360,395	646	
2018	751,172	5,929,471	1,091	951,838	946	2,359,931	664	
2019	807,614	6,038,326	1,138	957,500	975	2,361,620	712	
2020	1,828,489	6,094,447	1,162	952,704	985	2,352,680	725	
2021	1,148,603♦	6,131,527■	1,183■	948,110■	994■	2,347,886■	737■	
<i>Source</i>	INEM	INSS	INSS	INSS	INSS	INSS	INSS	

Non-contributory benefits

	Social Security			
	Unemployment	Retirement	Disability	Other
2008	646,186	265,314	199,410	63,626
2010	1,445,228	257,136	196,159	49,535
2012	1,327,027	251,549	194,876	36,310
2014	1,221,390	252,328	197,303	26,842
2015	1,102,529	253,838	198,891	23,643
2016	997,192	254,741	199,762	21,350
2017	902,193	256,187	199,120	19,019
2018	853,437	256,842	196,375	16,472
2019	912,384	259,570	193,122	14,997
2020	1,017,429	261,325	188,670	13,373
2021♦	1,090,027	260,300	186,059	12,700
<i>Sources</i>	INEM	IMERSO	IMERSO	IMERSO

INEM: Servicio Público de Empleo Estatal.

INSS: Instituto Nacional de la Seguridad Social.

IMERSO: Instituto de Mayores y Servicios Sociales.

* Benefits for orphans and dependent family members of deceased Social Security affiliates not included.

■ Data refer to January-February.

♦ Data refer to January.

Table III. 5

Social protection: Health care**Expenditure**

	Total (% GDP)	Public (% GDP)	Total expenditure (\$ per inhabitant)	Public expenditure (\$ per inhabitant)
2008	8.29	6.10	2,774	2,042
2010	9.01	6.74	2,886	2,157
2012	9.09	6.55	2,902	2,095
2014	9.08	6.36	3,057	2,140
2015	9.20	6.51	3,180	2,258
2016	9.00	6.34	3,248	2,293
2017	8.84	6.25	3,370	2,385
2018	8.90	6.20	3,323	2,341
<i>Sources</i>	OECD	OECD	OECD	OECD

Resources

	Medical specialists per 1,000 inhabitants	Primary care doctors per 1,000 people assigned	Specialist nurses per 1,000 inhabitants	Primary care nurses per 1,000 people assigned
2008	1.8	0.8	3.0	0.6
2010	1.8	0.8	3.2	0.6
2012	1.8	0.8	3.1	0.6
2014	1.8	0.8	3.1	0.7
2015	1.9	0.8	3.2	0.7
2016	1.9	0.8	3.3	0.6
2017	1.9	0.8	3.4	0.6
2018	2.0	0.8	3.5	0.7
<i>Sources</i>	INCLASNS	INCLASNS	INCLASNS	INCLASNS

Satisfaction (0-10 scale)**Time on waiting list (days)**

	With the working of the health system	With medical history and tracing by family doctor or pediatrician	Non-urgent surgical procedures	First specialist consultations
2008	6.4	7.0	71	59
2010	6.6	7.3	65	53
2012	6.6	7.5	76	53
2014	6.3	7.5	87	65
2015	6.4	7.5	89	58
2016	6.6	7.6	115	72
2017	6.7	7.5	106	66
2018	6.6	7.5	129	96
2019			115	81
<i>Sources</i>	INCLASNS	INCLASNS	INCLASNS	INCLASNS

OECD: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.
 INCLASNS: *Indicadores Clave del Sistema Nacional de Salud*.

Table III.6

Labour market

	Employment		Unemployment				Social Security affiliation		
	Men (in thousands)	Women (in thousands)	Men (in thousands)	Women (in thousands)	Rate (men)	Rate (women)	Men (in thousands)	Women (in thousands)	Foreign population (in thousands)
2008	11,805	8,665	1,320	1,276	10.1	12.8	10,884	8,121	2,052
2010	10,424	8,301	2,536	2,104	19.6	20.2	9,710	7,872	1,841
2012	9,608	8,025	3,131	2,680	24.6	25.0	9,034	7,705	1,693
2014	9,443	7,902	2,917	2,694	23.6	25.4	8,853	7,639	1,555
2015	9,760	8,106	2,559	2,497	20.8	23.6	9,154	7,864	1,608
2016	10,001	8,341	2,213	2,268	18.1	21.4	9,421	8,097	1,688
2017	10,266	8,559	1,905	2,011	15.7	19.0	9,758	8,369	1,802
2018	10,532	8,795	1,675	1,805	13.7	17.0	10,058	8,643	1,947
2019	10,746	9,034	1,528	1,720	12.4	16.0	10,286	8,903	2,043
2020	10,430	8,773	1,679	1,852	13.9	17.4	10,038	8,729	2,043
2021■							10,052	8,770	2,046
Sources	LFS	LFS	LFS	LFS	LFS	LFS	BEL	BEL	BEL

BEL: *Boletín de Estadísticas Laborales*.

LFS: *Labour Force Survey*.

■ Data refer to January.

Orders and information:

Funcas
Caballero de Gracia, 28
28013 Madrid (Spain)
Phone: +34 91 596 57 18
Fax: +34 91 596 57 96
publica@funcas.es
www.funcas.es

