

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 section, “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.

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Section I. Spain in Europe

I.1. Work from home: A small increase in 2021

The health emergency and the mandatory mobility restrictions in 2020 forced many workers to turn their private home into a workplace. Given the rigorous social distancing measures that prevailed during 2020, it was to be expected that this year would register the highest percentages of people working from home and that they would stagnate or decrease from then on.

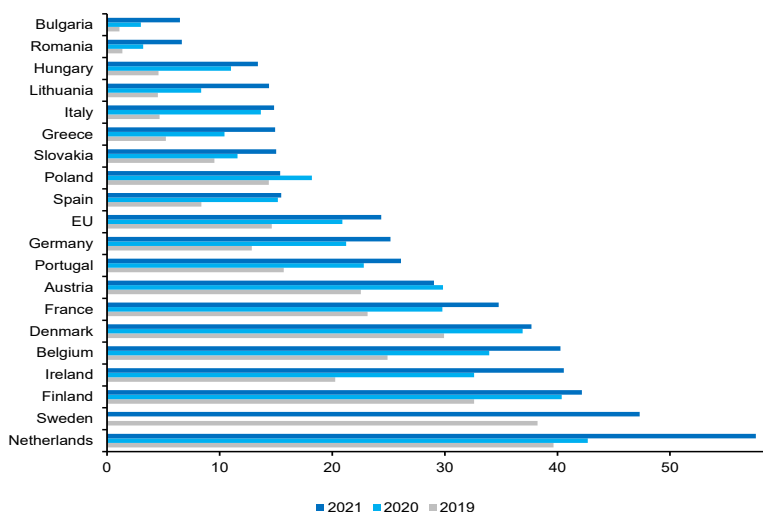
However, Eurostat data for 2021 does not support this expectation. In virtually all European countries (except for Luxembourg and Austria) the percentage of employed people

working from home “sometimes” (less than half of the days worked) or “usually” (at least half of the days worked) has increased in 2021 (Figure I.1). Some countries (The Netherlands, Ireland and Belgium) have even registered a strong increase in the percentage of people working from home between 2020 and 2021. In contrast, other countries (including Spain) show very small increases, thus suggesting that a ceiling in remote work may have been reached.

The Netherlands stands out as the country which before the pandemic (2019) as well as in 2021 registered a larger proportion of employed people working from home. Around six out of every ten (57.6%) employed persons in the Netherlands declared in 2021 to have worked from home in the four previous weeks “sometimes” or “usually”, nearly four times more than in Spain (15.5%). But Ireland is the country in which “usually” working from home is more extended, with a third of employed people (33%) doing so, around three times more than in Spain (9.6%) (Figure I.2).

Figure I.1

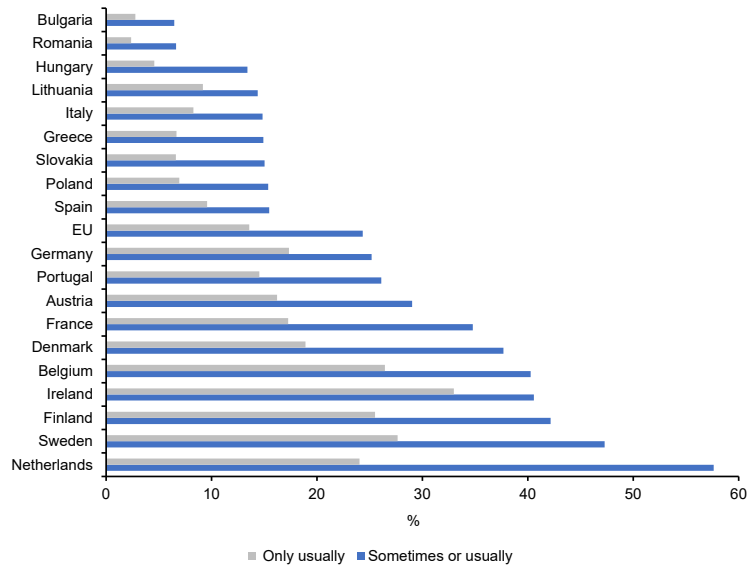
Share of employed people working from home "sometimes" or "usually" (selected EU countries, 2019-2021)



Source: Eurostat (ad-hoc extraction). The break in time series in 2021 prevents direct usage of Labour Force Survey data as displayed in http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-datasets/-/lfsa_ehomp.

Figure I.2

Share of employed people working from home "sometimes" or "usually" and "only usually" (selected EU countries, 2021)



Source: Eurostat (ad-hoc extraction). The break in time series in 2021 prevents direct usage of Labour Force Survey data as displayed in http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-datasets/-/lfsa_ehomp.

Predictably, the increase in working from home since the pandemic has been greater in those countries where this modality of work was rare (Figure I.3a and I.3b). Accordingly, some Eastern European countries (Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria) showed in 2020 a very significant rise in the proportion of employed people working from home compared to pre-pandemic levels. Similarly, in Greece and Italy the percentage of employed people working from home "sometimes" or "usually" almost tripled between 2019 and 2021. However, among Southern European countries, Portugal continues to be the one with the highest proportion of people working from home.

In sum, despite the increase in remote work in Spain, it remains far below the EU average. This evidence contrasts with the high value that workers in Spain attribute to remote work according to different surveys. In the fall of 2020, almost two thirds (63%) of employed people who began working from home after the COVID-19 outbreak stated their preference to continue

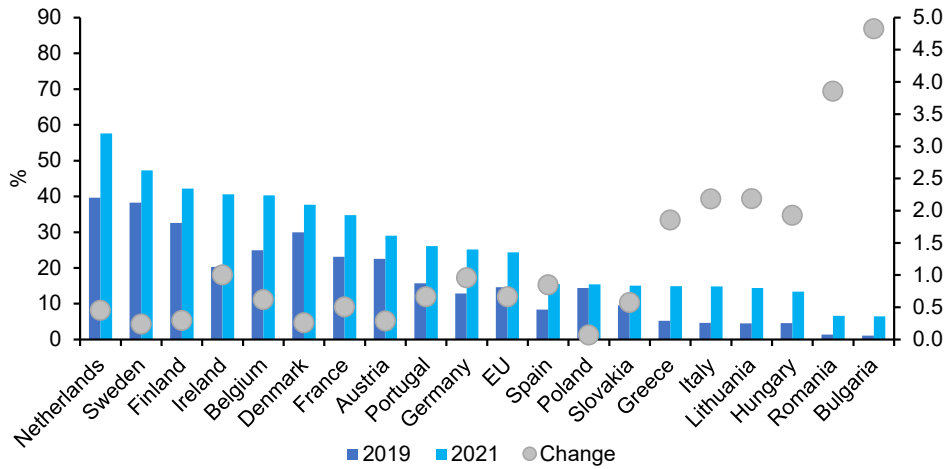
doing so after the pandemic, the youngest interviewees being the more sympathetic towards this modality of work (Figure I.4). The survey on equipment and use of information and communication technologies in households (National Statistics Institute) also shows a high assessment of remote work in Spain (8.1 of 10) among employed people who are familiar with it.

These social preferences imply propitious conditions for a greater development of remote work in Spain. However, a further development of remote work depends to a large extent on the type of jobs offered by the labor market, which in turn are contingent on how employers value the performance of their remote workers during the pandemic period. The minor growth of working from home in 2021 suggests that Spanish employers show a lower level of satisfaction with this performance than employers in other European countries where work from home has experienced a bigger increase.

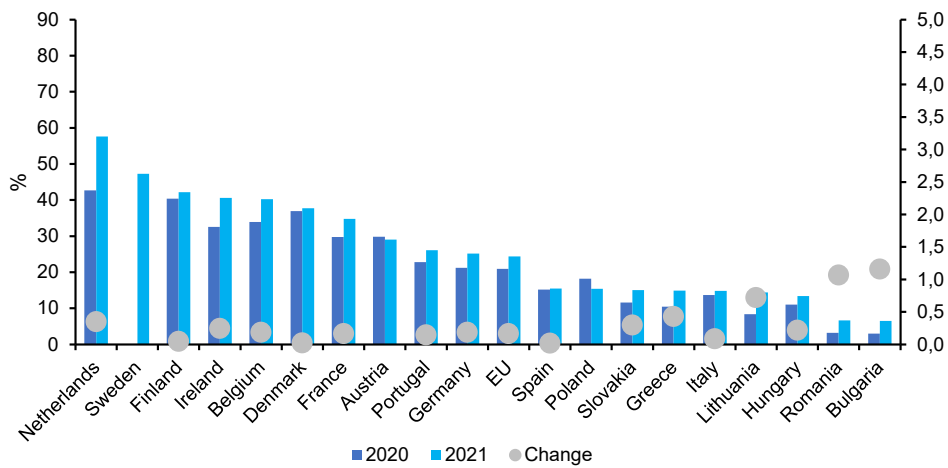
Figure I.3a and I.3b

Share of employed people working from home "sometimes" or "usually" (selected EU countries, percentage change 2019-2021 and 2020-2021)

I.3a



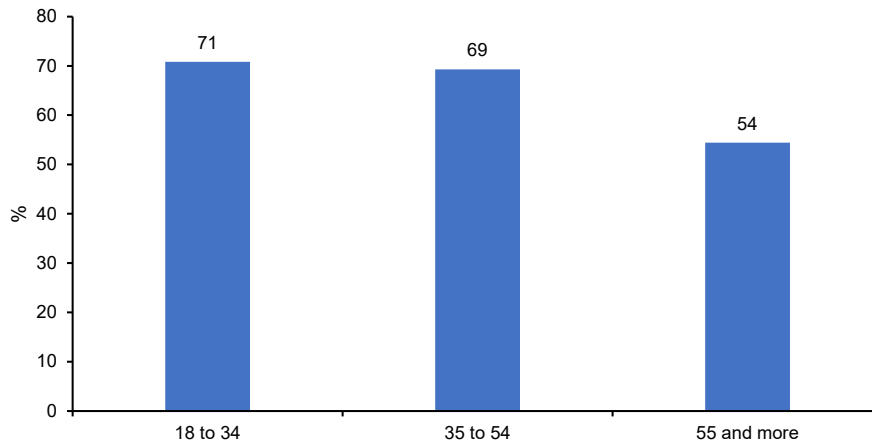
I.3b



Source: Eurostat (ad-hoc extraction). The break in time series in 2021 prevents direct usage of Labour Force Survey data as displayed in http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-datasets/-/lfsa_ehomp.

Figure I.4

Preference for remote work by workers who began working from home after the pandemic outbreak (October 2021)



Question: "Would you like to telecommute after the pandemic?"

Source: Center for Sociological Research, Opinion Survey 3298 (www.cis.es).

I.2. Work on weekends: High share, particularly among self-employed

If Southern European countries stand out for their comparatively low levels of employed people working from home, they also do so for their high shares of employment at atypical working times, specifically on weekends.

Greece represents an extreme case with 40.2% of all employed persons (aged 20 to 64) usually working on Saturdays and/or Sundays followed by Italy (34.5%), France (29%), Spain (28.9%) and Ireland (28%). Working on weekends is by far more common in Southern Europe, with Portugal again deviating from the regional pattern and registering a share (20.7%) below the EU average (22.1%) (Figure I.5).

In some European countries (France and Spain among them) women work more frequently

than men on weekends, but the differences by gender are quite small. In fact, the EU average for males and females is very similar (22.4% and 21.8%, respectively) (Figure I.6).

Significant differences emerge though when comparing data for the EU and for Spain by professional status and by occupation. In Spain, more than half of all self-employed workers worked on weekends in 2021 (50.6% of those without employees and 52% of those with employees), while the share for employees amounts to a quarter (24.9%). The corresponding figures for the EU average are consistently lower: 39.9%, 47.6% and 18.8%, respectively (Figure I.7). Overall, self-employed workers face more difficulties to reconcile professional and family obligations.

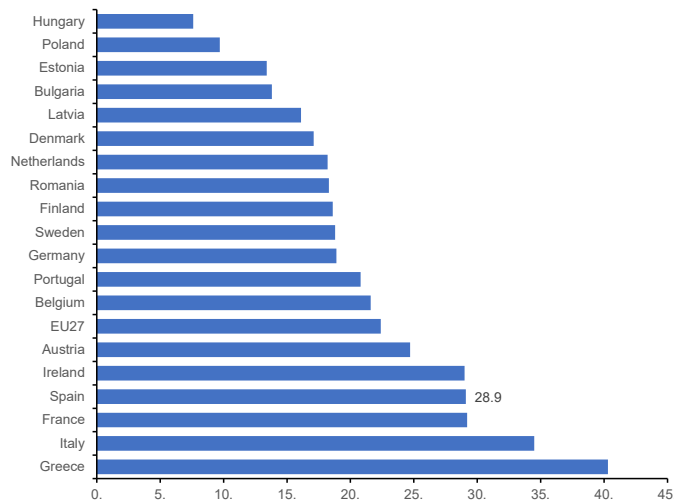
Moreover, almost two thirds of service and sales workers in Spain (64.3%) asked by the Labour Force Survey stated that they worked on weekends, whereas the EU share is much smaller (47.6%). Likewise,

elementary occupations in Spain are exposed to more frequent work on weekends (29.7), five points higher than the EU average)

(Figure I.8). These jobs certainly offer worse conditions to strike a satisfactory work-life balance.

Figure I.5

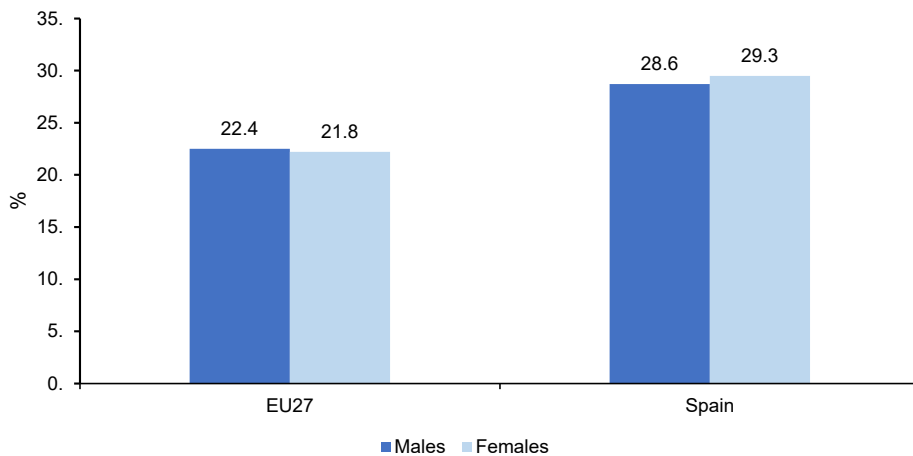
Work on weekends (selected EU countries, 2021)



Source: Eurostat [ifsa_Q0E_3B3].

Figure I.6

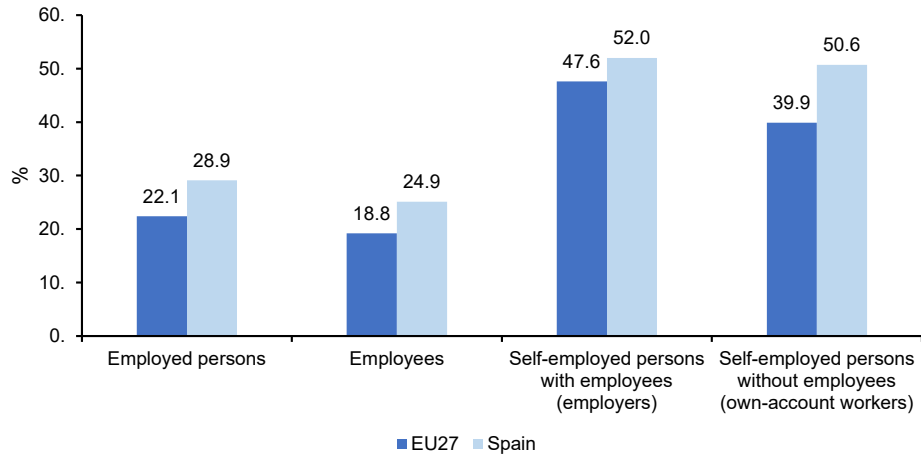
Work on weekends by gender (EU average and Spain, 2021)



Source: Eurostat [ifsa_Q0E_3B3].

Figure I.7

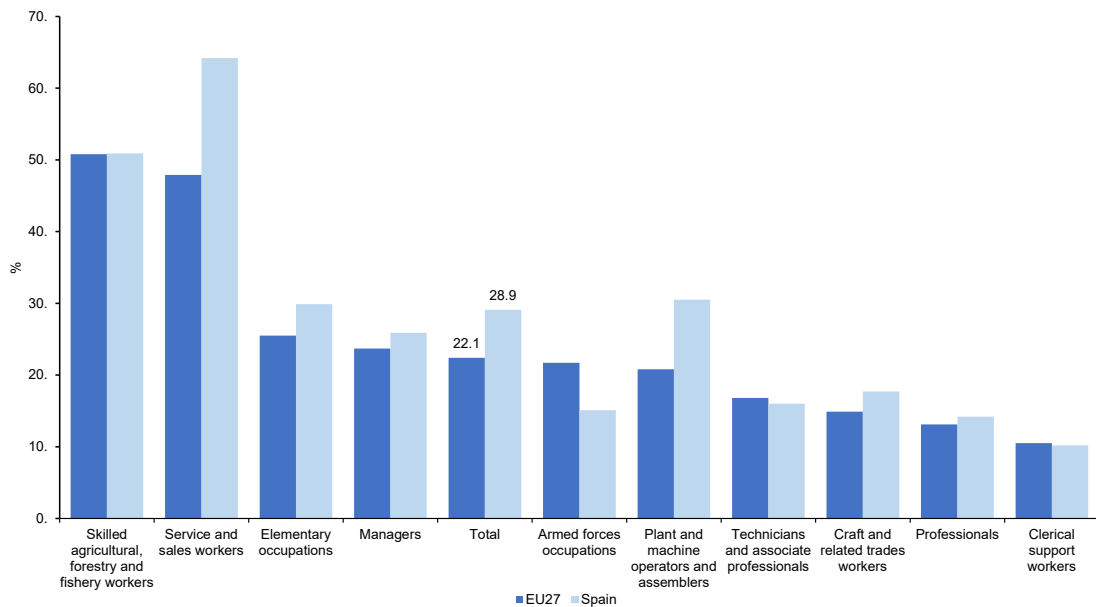
Work on weekends by professional status (EU average and Spain, 2021)



Source: Eurostat [Ifsa_Q0E_3B3].

Figure I.8

Work on weekends by occupation (EU average and Spain, 2021)



Source: Eurostat [Ifsa_Q0E_3B3].

Section II. Public opinion trends

Increasing share of people considering themselves “low class” or “poor”

The middle class has apparently become a major political target for the main Spanish parties. There is not a thorough expert consensus on who constitutes the middle class since different criteria are often used for its classification (occupation, educational attainment and income being the main variables applied to delimitate this social category).

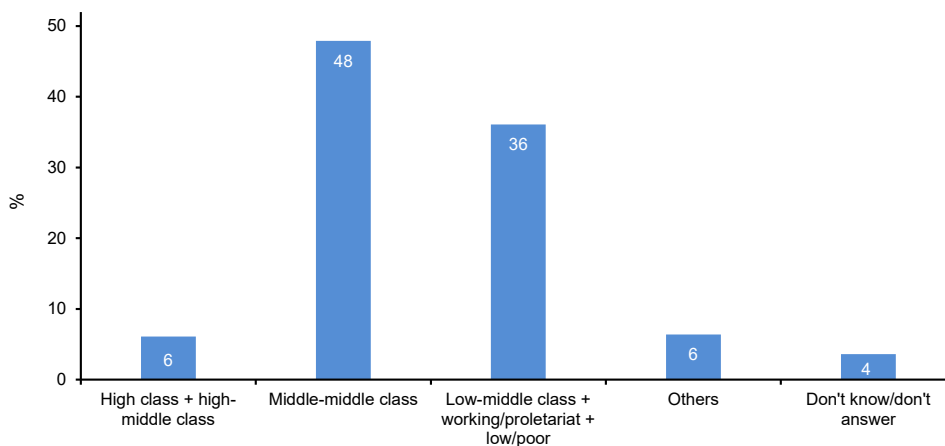
But apart from the “objective” categorization of the population into social classes, it is important

to know how individuals perceive themselves when asked about the social class to which they belong. In fact, 48% of those interviewed by the Spanish Center for Sociological Research (CIS) in November 2022 spontaneously answered “the middle class” (without further qualification). This proportion exceeds by far that of those who perceive themselves as members of the upper class or upper middle class (6%) and is also much larger than the share of interviewees who consider themselves as “lower-middle class” (13%), “working class” (10%) or “lower class” (10%) (Figure II.1). It is no wonder then that, given the predominance of the “middle class” as a subjective affiliation, the concept is frequently used in the political discourse to refer to “the average citizen”.

Age has however a significant impact on the self-perception as a social class member. Thus, among the population that has already reached 65, the percentage of people who consider themselves as part of the middle class

Figure II.1

Self-perceived social class (November 2022)

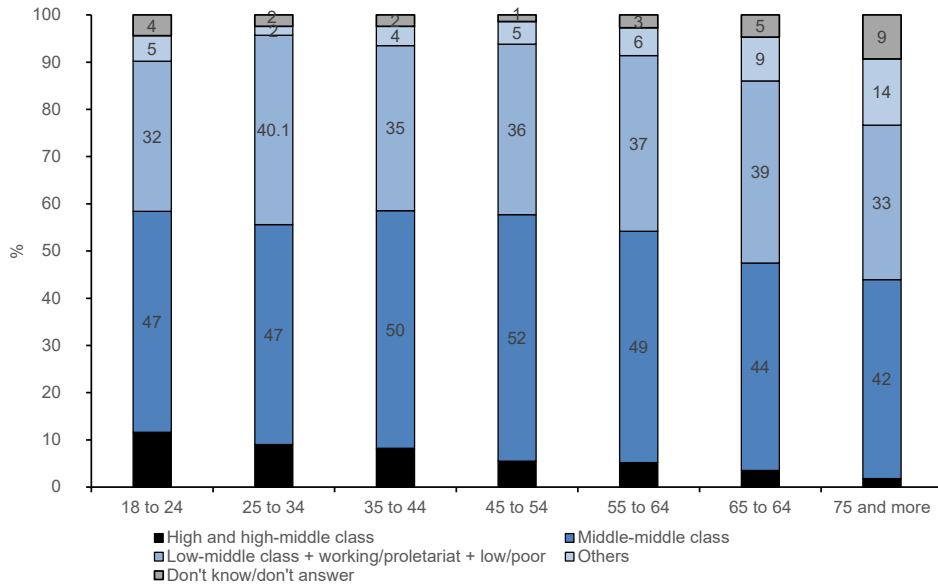


Question: “To what social class do you think that you belong?”.

Source: Center for Sociological Research (www.cis.es), opinion barometer 3383.

Figure II.2

Self-perceived social class by age (November 2022)

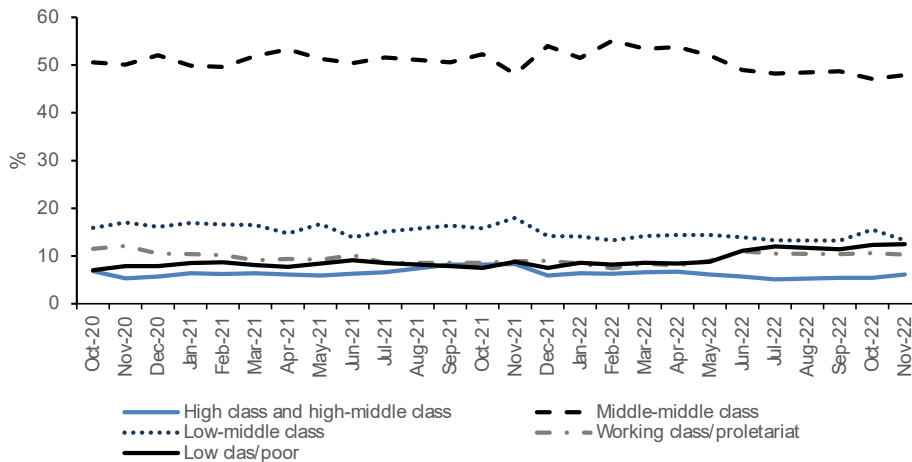


Question: "To what social class do you think that you belong?"

Source: Center for Sociological Research (www.cis.es), opinion barometer 3383.

Figure II.3

Self-perceived social class (2020-2022)



Question: "To what social class do you think that you belong?"

Source: Center for Sociological Research (www.cis.es), opinion barometers 3292-3383.

decreases, whereas the percentage of those who define their position in the social structure in unconventional terms (“poor people”, “common people”, “those from below”) increases (Figure II.2).

The data series conveying the results to this survey question shows fairly stable trends (Figure II.3). Yet, since the last summer there has been a slight decrease in the percentage of interviewees perceiving themselves as “middle class”, while that of people who identify themselves with the low class or the poor people shows a remarkable increase in the last two years. In November 2020 it amounted to 8% while in November 2022 it was close to 13%.

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	79.6	85.1	53.5	29.8	15.2	523,618	41,708
2021	47,385,107	43.8	19.6	80.2	85.8	53.4	30.1	15.5	621,216	56,098
2022●	47,435,597	44.1	20.0			53.5	30.7	15.8		
<i>Sources</i>	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.

● Provisional data.

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	15.0	11.4
2021	18,919	2.50	15.6	11.0
2022■	19,083	2.49		
<i>Sources</i>	LFS	LFS	EPF	EPF

Table III.2

Households and families (continued)

	Nuptiality					
	Marriage rate (Spanish)	Marriage rate (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	2.9
2019	7.1	6.7	1.95	36.0	33.9	3.1
2020	3.8	4.1	1.63	37.1	34.9	3.5
2021	6.3	5.6				3.4
<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	11.5	64.1
2020	31.2	1.12	1.45	47.6	10.3	65.8
2021	31.6	1.16	1.38			
<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)*.

■ Data refer to January-September.

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
2021	16.4	5.8	32.3	46.7
2022■	16.1	5.7	32.6	49.3
<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	1,750,579	667,287	675,971	1,290,455	217,840
2019	1,749,597	673,740	706,533	1,296,379	237,118
2020	1,622,098	687,084	772,417	1,336,009	247,251
2021	1,622,919●	691,437●	776,664●	1,338,304	258,991
<i>Source</i>	MECD	MECD	MECD	MECD	MECD

Education expenditure

	Public expenditure (millions of €)	Public expenditure (% GDP)
2008	51,716	4.63
2010	53,099	4.91
2012	46,476	4.47
2014	44,846	4.32
2015	46,598	4.31
2016	47,579	4.25
2017	49,458	4.24
2018	50,807	4.23
2019	53,053	4.26
2020●	55,266	4.93
<i>Sources</i>	MECD	INE

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

● Provisional data.

■ Data refer to January-September.

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	922,856	6,165,349	1,190	949,765	994	2,353,987	740	
2022■	761,470	6,245,641	1,253	951,435	1,035	2,350,939	778	
Source	INSS	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	969,412	262,177	184,378	11,892
2022■	881,407	265,546	180,470	10,726
Sources	INSS	IMERSO	IMERSO	IMERSO

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-October.

Table III. 5

Social protection: Health care**Expenditure**

	Public expenditure (% GDP)	Public expenditure (millions of €)
2008	6.1	67,344
2010	6.6	71,136
2012	6.3	64,734
2014	6.2	63,507
2015	6.2	66,489
2016	6.1	67,724
2017	6.0	69,312
2018	6.0	72,157
2019	6.1	75,929
2020●	7.6	85,383
<i>Sources</i>	Eurostat	Eurostat

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
2019	2.0	0.8	3.5	0.7
2020	2.0	0.8	3.7	0.7
<i>Sources</i>	INCLASNS	INCLASNS	INCLASNS	INCLASNS

Satisfaction***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 per 1,000 inhabitants
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	6.7	7.6	115	81
2020			148	99
2021			121	75
<i>Sources</i>	INCLASNS	INCLASNS	INCLASNS	INCLASNS

INE: Instituto Nacional de Estadística.

INCLASNS: *Indicadores Clave del Sistema Nacional de Salud*.

* Average of population satisfaction measured on a scale of 1 to 10, where 1 means "totally unsatisfactory" and 10 "totally satisfactory".

● Provisional data.

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	2,046
2021	10,652	9,122	1,599	1,831	13.1	16.7	10,285	8,964	2,167
2022	10,961■	9,405■	1,390■	1,635■	11.3■	14.8■	10,607♦	9,336♦	2,373♦
Sources	LFS	LFS	LFS	LFS	LFS	LFS	BEL	BEL	BEL

BEL: *Boletín de Estadísticas Laborales*.

LFS: *Labour Force Survey*.

♦ Data refer to January-October.

■ Data refer to January-September.

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