

*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 inquiries 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, education, health and welfare benefits and services.

### **Section I. Spain in Europe**

- 1.1. Decrease of at-risk-of-poverty rate among the elderly
- 1.2. Increase of the average spending in households headed by pensioners
- 1.3. The generosity of the Spanish elderly

### **Section II. Public opinion trends**

- Growing demand for the social functions of the state alongside rising perceptions of excessive taxation

### **Section III. Follow-up social data**

- Population, households and families, education and social protection

## Section I. Spain in Europe

### 1.1. Decrease of at-risk-of-poverty rate among the elderly

According to Eurostat, the share of people aged 65 and over below the at-risk-of-poverty threshold (60% of the national median equivalent disposable income after social transfers) has dropped in most European countries during the last decade. Spain is among the countries with the sharpest drop. In 2005, the Spanish at-risk-of-poverty rate among the elderly amounted to 28.8%, ten percentage points higher than the European average (EU-27). In 2012, the Spanish rate had decreased to 14.8%, practically coinciding with the European rate (14.4%) (Exhibit 1). The spread across country rates has seemingly narrowed suggesting

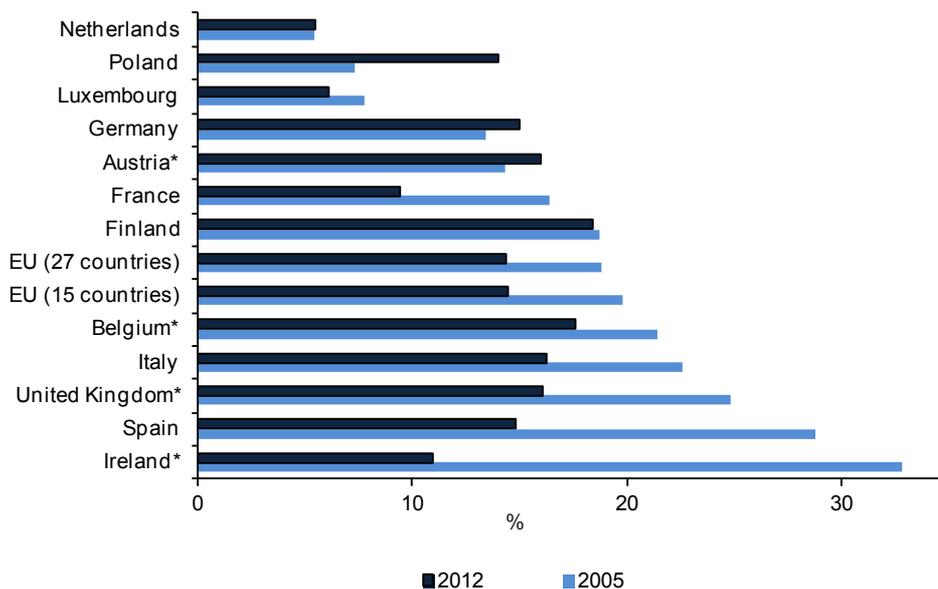
a convergence of economic circumstances among the European elderly.

### 1.2. Increase of the average spending in households headed by pensioners

The decline of the at-risk-of-poverty rate among the Spanish elderly is supported by striking evidence: Households headed by pensioners or retirees have been the least affected by the crisis in terms of household spending. Time series data from the Spanish Household Budget Survey shows that spending has increased between 2006 and 2012 in those households headed by pensioners and retirees, whereas it has decreased in households headed by employed and unemployed persons (Exhibit 2). In 2006, households headed by unemployed people and by pensioners spent similar quantities (22,863 and 23,858 euros per

Exhibit 1

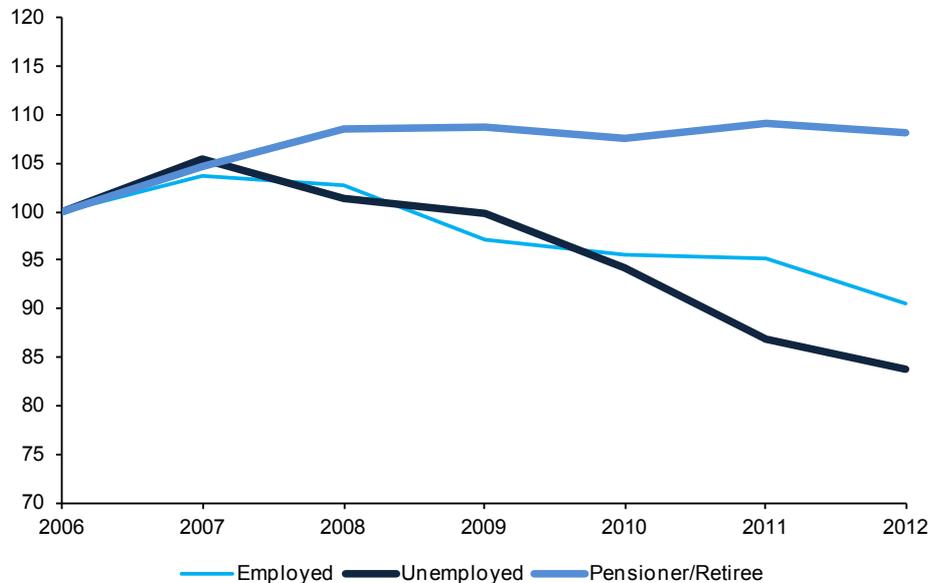
#### At-risk-of poverty rate among people aged 65 and over



Note: \* Data is 2011.

Source: Eurostat Database.

Exhibit 2

**Average household spending by activity of the head of household (2006=100)**

Source: National Statistics Institute, Household Budget Surveys (INE, *Encuesta de Presupuestos Familiares*).

year, respectively). However, in 2012, households headed by unemployed spent considerably less than in 2006 (19,152 euros), while those headed by pensioners spent significantly more (25,817 euros).

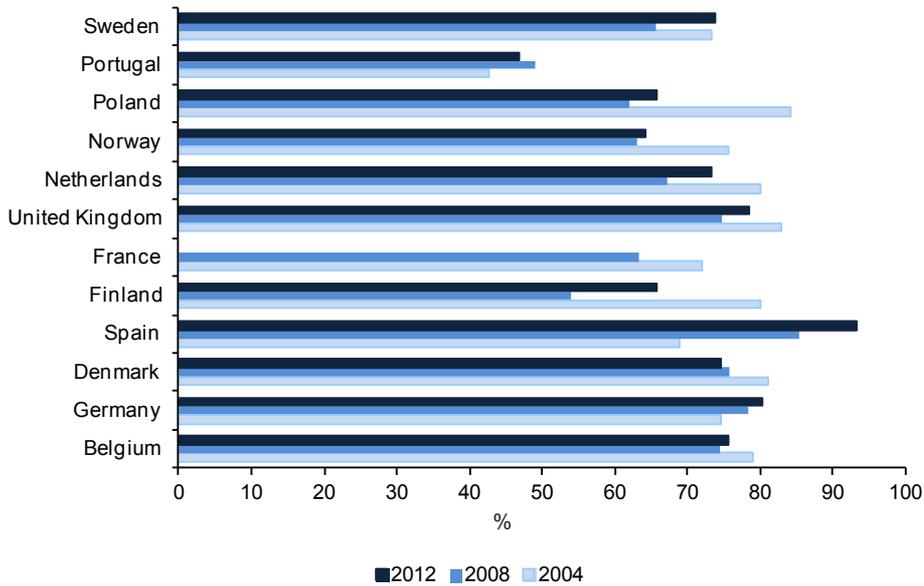
### 1.3. The generosity of the Spanish elderly

Spain stands out as the European country with the highest percentage of individuals aged 65 and over who think that “it is important to help people and care for others well-being”. More than nine out of ten elderly Spaniards share this view. The proportion of elderly who agree with this statement has significantly increased since 2004 (Exhibit 3). Given this very extensive agreement it is not surprising that Spain has the highest percentage of people 65 years and older stating that they provide help and support to close people. This

percentage has also increased between 2004 and 2012. These results hint at the consistency between normative perceptions and effective behavior. Thus, Spanish elderly increasingly think it is desirable to help people, and in line with this belief they have intensified their support to relatives and friends.

Exhibit 3

**People aged 65 and over who fully agree with: “It’s very important to help the people around, to care for their well-being”**

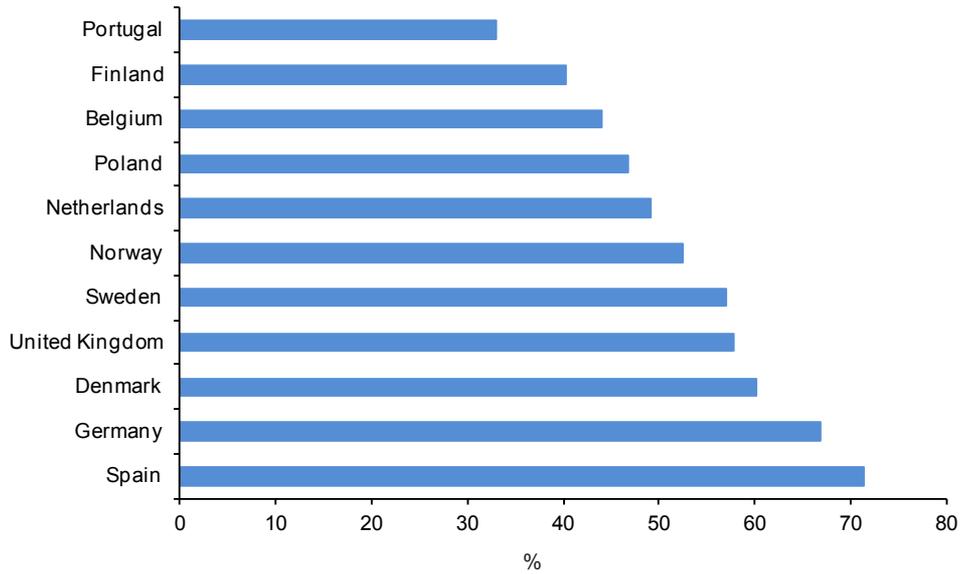


*Question:* Now I will briefly describe some people. Please listen to each description and tell me how much each person is or is not like you. Use this card for your answer. “It’s very important to her/him to help the people around her/him. She/he wants to care for their well-being” (1=very much like me; 6=not like me at all).

*Source:* European Social Survey 2004, 2008 and 2012.

Exhibit 4

**People aged 65 and over who state they provide help and support to close persons when they need it**



*Question:* And to what extent do you provide help and support to people you are close to when they need it? (0=not at all; 6=completely).

*Source:* European Social Survey, 2012.

## Section II. Public opinion trends

Judging from recent public opinion data, the majority of the Spanish population continues to believe that the government spends too few resources on different social functions. Although many experts and political actors have insisted during the last years on the causal link between excessive public expenditure and the economic and financial crisis, the percentage of people who think that the government spends too little on pensions and health care has notably increased (10 and 16 percentage points between 2006 and 2013, respectively). Such an evolution of public opinion might respond to an effective reduction of public resources devoted to these functions. Nevertheless, the available evidence does not support this hypothesis. According to the latest

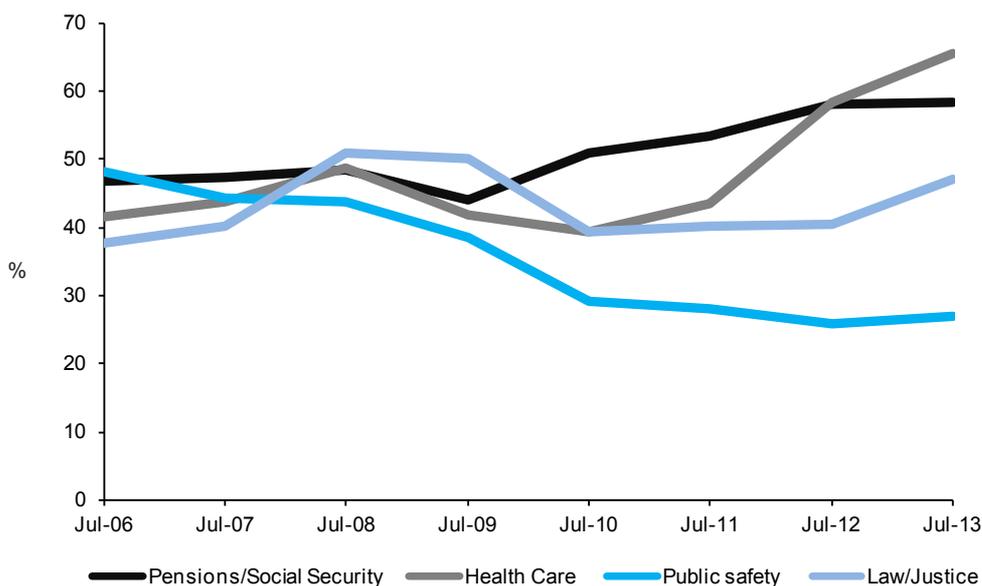
data released by the World Bank and the OECD, public health expenditure as a share of GDP increased from 6% to 7% between 2006 and 2011, while public pension expenditure improved from 8.1% to 9.3% between 2005 and 2009.

Interestingly enough, people are less critical as regards public spending on public safety. The percentage of people who think that the government spends too little on public safety has significantly decreased during the last years (from 48.1% to 26.9%). Likewise the percentage of those who consider that law and justice are underfinanced has fallen, although it has bounced back in the last year.

It is also remarkable that rising perceptions about the insufficient public expenditure on pensions and health care coincide with increased perceptions about excessive taxes (Exhibit 6).

Exhibit 5

### Perceptions about government expenditure: The government spends too few resources (2006-2013)

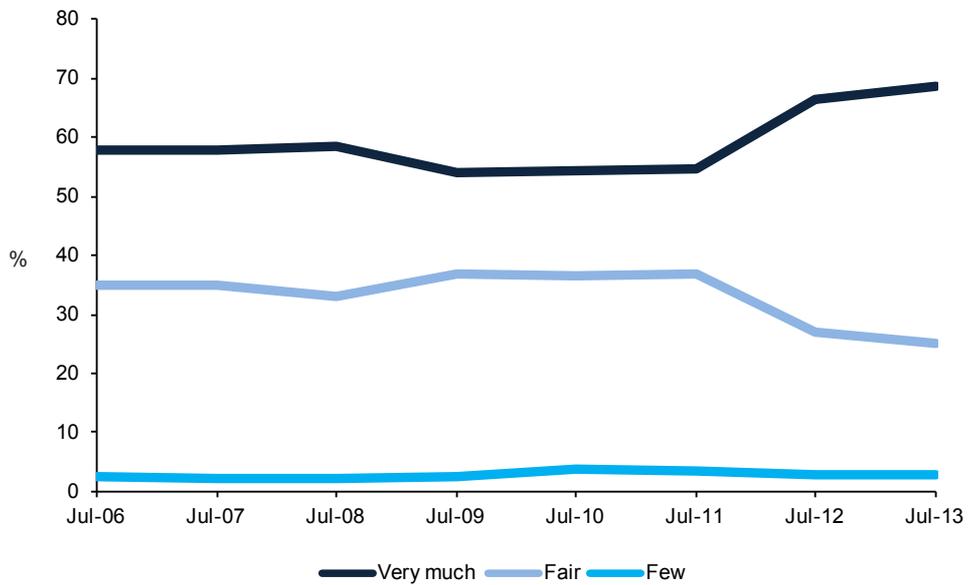


Question: Tell me please if the state devotes too much, too few of just enough resources to the following services.

Source: Center for Sociological Research, annual surveys "Public opinion and fiscal policy", 2006-2013.

Exhibit 6

**Perceptions about taxes (2006-2013)**



*Question:* Would you say that we Spaniards pay very much, few or fair taxes?

*Source:* Center for Sociological Research, annual surveys "Public opinion and fiscal policy", 2006-2013.

## Section III. Follow-up social data

Table III.1

### Population

|                | Total population | Average age | 65 and older (%) | Dependency rate | Dependency rate (older than 64) | Foreign-born population (%) | New entries (all nationalities) | New entries (non-EU-27 born)(%) |
|----------------|------------------|-------------|------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 2006           | 44,708,964       | 40.63       | 16.74            | 47.49           | 24.63                           | 10.82                       | 840,844                         | 37.57                           |
| 2007           | 45,200,737       | 40.76       | 16.66            | 47.41           | 24.55                           | 11.61                       | 958,266                         | 41.69                           |
| 2008           | 46,157,822       | 40.81       | 16.54            | 47.47           | 24.49                           | 13.10                       | 726,009                         | 28.40                           |
| 2009           | 46,745,807       | 40.92       | 16.65            | 47.81           | 24.61                           | 13.83                       | 498,977                         | 31.98                           |
| 2010           | 47,021,031       | 41.12       | 16.87            | 48.63           | 25.03                           | 14.05                       | 464,443                         | 35.54                           |
| 2011           | 47,190,493       | 41.36       | 17.15            | 49.43           | 25.51                           | 14.15                       | 454,686                         | 36.87                           |
| 2012*          | 47,265,321       | 41.63       | 17.40            | 50.39           | 26.14                           | 14.30                       | 370,515                         | 36.32                           |
| 2013**         | 47,059,533       | 41.89       | 17.71            | 50.63           | 26.67                           | 14.06                       |                                 |                                 |
| <i>Sources</i> | PMC              | PMC         | PMC              | PMC             | PMC                             | ID INE                      | EVR                             | EVR                             |

ID INE: *Indicadores Demográficos INE.*

PMC: *Padrón Municipal Continuo.*

EVR: *Encuesta de Variaciones Residenciales.*

\* Data from ID INE for this year refer to July 2011-June 2012.

\*\* Provisional data.

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 family

#### Households

|                | Household number (thousands) | Average household size | Households with one person less than 65 (%) | Households with one person older than 65 (%) |
|----------------|------------------------------|------------------------|---|--|
| 2006           | 15,856.2                     | 2.76                   | 8.4   | 8.70   |
| 2007           | 16,280.5                     | 2.74                   | 8.8   | 8.73   |
| 2008           | 16,742.0                     | 2.71                   | 9.3   | 8.68   |
| 2009           | 17,068.2                     | 2.68                   | 9.7   | 8.87   |
| 2010           | 17,173.9                     | 2.67                   | 10.0  | 8.80   |
| 2011           | 17,344.1                     | 2.65                   | 10.3  | 9.02   |
| 2012           | 17,434.4                     | 2.63                   | 13.5●                                       | 9.82●  |
| 2013           | 17,391.9◆                    | 2.62◆                  |   |  |
| <i>Sources</i> | LFS                          | LFS                    | EPF   | EPF  |

Table III.2

**Households and family (continued)**

| <b>Nuptiality</b> |                                    |   |   |  |  |                                       |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|---|---|--|--|---------------------------------------|
|                   | <b>Marriage rate<br/>(Spanish)</b> | <b>Marriage rate<br/>(foreign population)</b> | <b>Separations<br/>and<br/>divorces</b> | <b>Mean age at<br/>first marriage,<br/>men</b> | <b>Mean age<br/>at first marriage,<br/>women</b> | <b>Same sex<br/>marriages<br/>(%)</b> |
| 2006              | 9.26                               | 9.45  | 155,628                                 | 32.2   | 29.7   | 2.08                                  |
| 2007              | 9.00                               | 8.69  | 141,304                                 | 32.2   | 29.9   | 1.56                                  |
| 2008              | 8.51                               | 8.35  | 131,060                                 | 32.4   | 30.2   | 1.62                                  |
| 2009              | 7.48                               | 8.23  | 124,594                                 | 32.8   | 30.6   | 1.74                                  |
| 2010              | 7.17                               | 7.89  | 127,682                                 | 33.2   | 31.0   | 1.87                                  |
| 2011              | 6.89                               | 7.19  | 124,702                                 | 33.6   | 31.4   | 2.17                                  |
| 2012              | 7.19*                              | 6.65*   | 127,160                                 | 33.7*  | 31.5*  |                                       |
| <i>Sources</i>    | <b>ID INE</b>                      | <b>ID INE</b>                                 | <b>CGPJ</b>                             | <b>ID INE</b>                                  | <b>ID INE</b>                                    | <b>ID INE</b>                         |

| <b>Fertility</b> |   |                             |   |  |                      |   |
|------------------|---|-----------------------------|---|--|----------------------|---|
|                  | <b>Median age<br/>at first child,<br/>women</b> | <b>Total fertility rate</b> | <b>Births to single<br/>mothers (%)</b> | <b>Births to foreign<br/>mothers (%)</b> | <b>Abortion rate</b> | <b>Abortion by<br/>Spanish-born<br/>women (%)</b> |
| 2006             | 29.32   | 1.38                        | 28.38                                   | 16.54                                    | 10.62                |   |
| 2007             | 29.45   | 1.39                        | 30.24                                   | 18.98                                    | 11.49                |   |
| 2008             | 29.30   | 1.46                        | 33.15                                   | 20.82                                    | 11.78                | 55.56   |
| 2009             | 29.60   | 1.39                        | 34.47                                   | 20.72                                    | 11.41                | 57.21   |
| 2010             | 29.83   | 1.38                        | 35.51                                   | 20.55                                    | 11.49                | 58.30   |
| 2011             | 30.12   | 1.36                        | 37.34                                   | 19.51                                    | 12.44                | 59.99   |
| 2012             | 30.23*  | 1.35*                       |   |  |                      |   |
| <i>Sources</i>   | <b>ID INE</b>                                   | <b>ID INE</b>               | <b>ID INE</b>                           | <b>ID INE</b>                            | <b>MSAN</b>          | <b>MSAN</b>                                       |

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.

\* Data for this year refer to July 2011-June 2012.

♦ Data refer to January-September 2013.

● 2012 data were calculated using 2011 census population data and are not strictly comparable with prior periods.

Marriage rate: Number of marriages per 1,000 total population.

Total fertility rate: 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 (%) |
|----------------|--|---|---|--|
| 2006           | 32.9   | 8.4   | 15.6  | 25.3   |
| 2007           | 32.5   | 9.0   | 15.9  | 26.5   |
| 2008           | 32.1   | 9.2   | 16.1  | 26.9   |
| 2009           | 31.4   | 8.7   | 16.3  | 26.2   |
| 2010           | 30.6   | 8.6   | 17.0  | 27.7   |
| 2011           | 29.4   | 7.4   | 17.6  | 27.0   |
| 2012           | 28.5   | 7.5   | 17.8  | 26.6   |
| <i>Sources</i> | <b>LFS</b>   | <b>LFS</b>                                  | <b>LFS</b>  | <b>LFS</b>                                   |

**Students involved in non-compulsory education**

|                | Pre-primary education | Secondary education | Vocational training | Under-graduate students | Post-graduate studies (except doctorate) |
|----------------|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|--|
| 2006/07        | 1,557,257             | 665,127             | 445,455             | 1,405,894               | 16,636                                   |
| 2007/08        | 1,643,016             | 659,573             | 451,541             | 1,389,249               | 34,695                                   |
| 2008/09        | 1,763,019             | 669,021             | 472,604             | 1,377,228               | 49,799                                   |
| 2009/10        | 1,819,402             | 692,054             | 517,344             | 1,404,115               | 81,840                                   |
| 2010/11        | 1,872,829             | 720,937             | 555,580             | 1,445,392               | 100,963                                  |
| 2011/12        | 1,917,236             | 684,176             | 699,295**           | 1,469,653               | 113,061                                  |
| 2012/13        | 1,900,173             | 692,558             | 747,189**           | 1,492,391***            |  |
| <i>Sources</i> | <b>MECD</b>           | <b>MECD</b>         | <b>MECD</b>         | <b>MECD</b>             | <b>MECD</b>                              |

**Education expenditure**

|               | Public expenditure (thousands of €) | Household expenditure (€) |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2006          | 42,512,586                          | 8,244                     |
| 2007          | 46,459,265                          | 8,522                     |
| 2008          | 50,880,439                          | 8,505                     |
| 2009          | 53,092,220                          | 8,762                     |
| 2010          | 52,720,999                          | 9,085                     |
| 2011          | 50,714,177*                         | 9,194***                  |
| <i>Source</i> | <b>MECD</b>                         | <b>INE</b>                |

LFS: *Labor Force Survey*.

MECD: Ministerio de Educación, Cultura y Deporte.

INE: Instituto Nacional de Estadística.

\* Provisional data.

\*\* It includes distance vocational education and initial vocational qualification programs.

\*\*\* Forecast.

Table III.4

**Social protection: Benefits****Contributory benefits\***

|        | Unemployment |                                | Retirement |                    | Permanent disability |                    | Widowhood  |                    |
|--------|--------------|--------------------------------|------------|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------|------------|--------------------|
|        | Total        | Average daily gross amount (€) | Total      | Average amount (€) | Total                | Average amount (€) | Total      | Average amount (€) |
| 2006   | 720,384      | 24.1                           | 4,809,298  | 722.7              | 859,780              | 731.5              | 2,196,934  | 476.7              |
| 2007   | 780,205      | 25.4                           | 4,863,256  | 760.0              | 888,776              | 760.7              | 2,225,501  | 498.3              |
| 2008   | 1,100,879    | 26.8                           | 4,936,839  | 814.5              | 906,835              | 801.5              | 2,249,904  | 529.0              |
| 2009   | 1,624,792    | 27.7                           | 5,038,861  | 854.1              | 920,863              | 831.5              | 2,270,283  | 553.9              |
| 2010   | 1,471,826    | 28.1                           | 5,140,554  | 884.0              | 933,730              | 849.9              | 2,290,090  | 571.7              |
| 2011   | 1,328,020    | 28.4                           | 5,246,241  | 915.2              | 938,491              | 869.5              | 2,309,332  | 586.4              |
| 2012   | 1,381,261    | 28.7                           | 5,330,195  | 946.3              | 943,296              | 887.3              | 2,322,938  | 601.5              |
| 2013** | 1,338,944♦   | 28.1♦                          | 5,440,354♦ | 978.0♦             | 935,621♦             | 907.1♦             | 2,334,530♦ | 617.2♦             |
| Source | BEL          | BEL                            | BEL        | BEL                | BEL                  | BEL                | BEL        | BEL                |

**Non-contributory benefits**

|        | Social Security |            |            |         |
|--------|-----------------|------------|------------|---------|
|        | Unemployment    | Retirement | Disability | Other   |
| 2006   | 558,702         | 276,920    | 204,383    | 82,846  |
| 2007   | 575,675         | 270,980    | 201,751    | 73,159  |
| 2008   | 646,186         | 265,314    | 197,884    | 64,967  |
| 2009   | 960,888         | 260,908    | 196,782    | 57,737  |
| 2010   | 1,445,228       | 257,136    | 195,962    | 50,876  |
| 2011   | 1,331,316       | 254,295    | 194,704    | 44,457  |
| 2012   | 1,327,027       | 251,549    | 194,896    | 37,651  |
| 2013   | 1,321,811●      | 250,879♦   | 195,169♦   | 32,456♦ |
| Source | IMRSERO         | IMRSERO    | IMRSERO    | BEL     |

BEL: *Boletín de Estadísticas Laborales*.

IMRSERO: Instituto de Mayores y Servicios Sociales.

\* Benefits for orphans and dependent family members of deceased Social Security affiliates are excluded.

♦ Data refer to January-October.

● Data refer to January-September.

Table III.5

**Social protection: Health care**

|                | Total expenditure % GDP | Public expenditure % total expenditure | Physicians per 1,000 inhabitants | Nurses per 1,000 inhabitants | Medical staff primary health care per 1,000 medical cards | People over 45 who consider that their health is "good or very good" (%) |
|----------------|-------------------------|--|----------------------------------|------------------------------|---|--|
| 2006           | 8.4                     | 71.6                                   | 3.6                              | 4.1                          | 0.72  | 51.27  |
| 2007           | 8.5                     | 71.9                                   | 3.7                              | 4.4                          | 0.74  |  |
| 2008           | 8.9                     | 73.0                                   | 3.5                              | 4.6                          | 0.75  |  |
| 2009           | 9.6                     | 74.7                                   | 3.5                              | 4.9                          | 0.74  |  |
| 2010           | 9.6                     | 74.2                                   | 3.8                              | 4.9                          | 0.74  |  |
| 2011           | 9.3                     | 73.0                                   | 4.1                              | 5.5                          |   | 58.70  |
| 2012           |                         |  | 3.8                              | 5.3                          |   |  |
| <i>Sources</i> | <b>OECD</b>             | <b>OECD</b>                            | <b>OECD</b>                      | <b>OECD</b>                  | <b>INCLASNS</b>   | <b>ENS</b>   |

OECD: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

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

ENS: *Encuesta Nacional de Salud*.







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