

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 particular social issues as perceived by the Spanish public and expressed 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

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- I.2. Moderate but increasing material deprivation rate

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- Population, households and families, education and social protection

Section I. Spain in Europe

I.1. Labor costs: Intermediate ranking in the euro area

In search of reasons to explain the significant difficulties in reducing Spain's unemployment rate, some analysts have pointed towards comparatively high labor costs even after the implementation of recent labor market reforms. European data do not provide strong support for this argument.

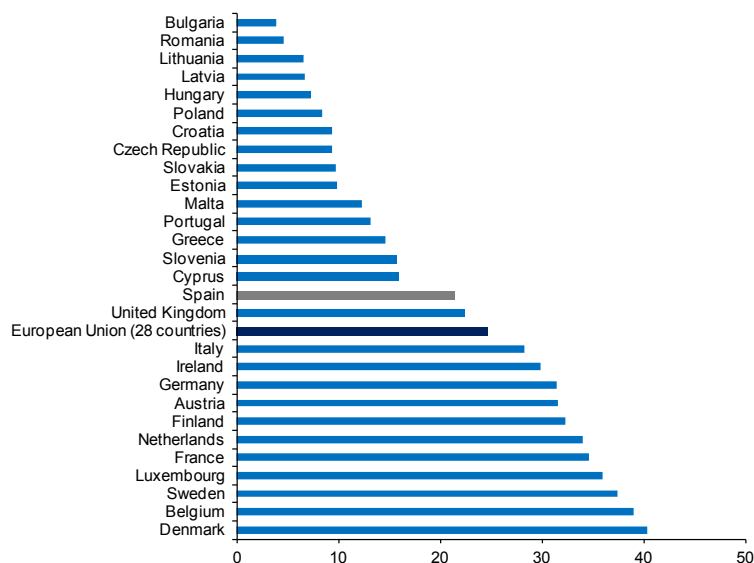
While the average hourly labor cost in the euro area (EA18) in 2014 amounted to EUR 29.2 (24.6 in the EU28), the corresponding figure for Spain was estimated at EUR 21.3. With regard to this indicator, Spain ranked near the middle: its average hourly labor cost is approximately 13 EUR less than in the Netherlands and 8 EUR more than in Portugal (Exhibit I.1).

In relation to wages and salaries (the largest part of labor costs), wide variation is observed among EU Member States. In 2010 (latest available comparative data), Denmark registered the highest median gross hourly earnings (EUR 24.97), while the lowest figure was recorded in Bulgaria (EUR 1.52). Spain again ranked in the middle with EUR 9.41 (close to Italy and the United Kingdom, with EUR 11.87 and 12.62, respectively). Furthermore, being among the 22 out of 28 EU Member States that have a national minimum wage –the exceptions are the Nordic countries (Sweden, Denmark and Finland), as well as Austria, Italy and Cyprus- Spain's (gross) minimum wage is relatively modest. In 2014, it amounted to 797.94 power purchasing parities (PPP), well below the minimum wages of the Benelux countries, France and Germany (roughly between 1,300 and 1,500 PPP), as well as Ireland (1,238 PPP) and approximately at the level of Poland, Greece and Portugal (around 700-800 PPP) (Exhibit I.2).

As for non-wage costs, their share for the whole economy in the euro area (26.1%) practically

Exhibit I.1

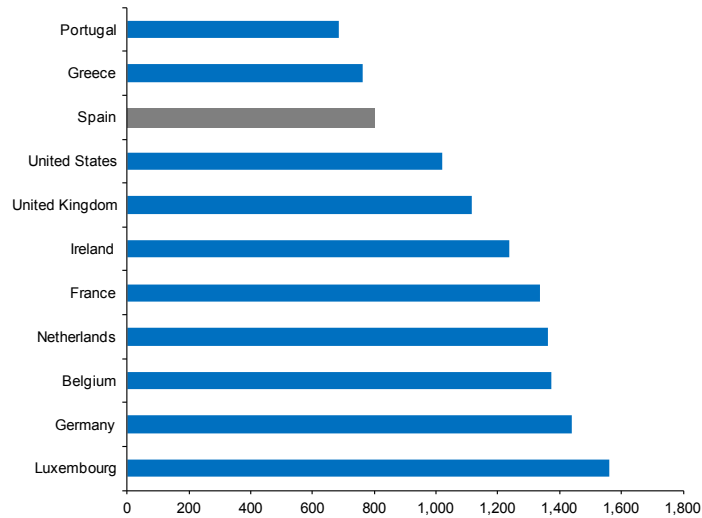
Average total hourly labor costs (2014) [EUR]



Source: Eurostat (LCS).

Exhibit I.2

National minimum wages (2015) [PPP]



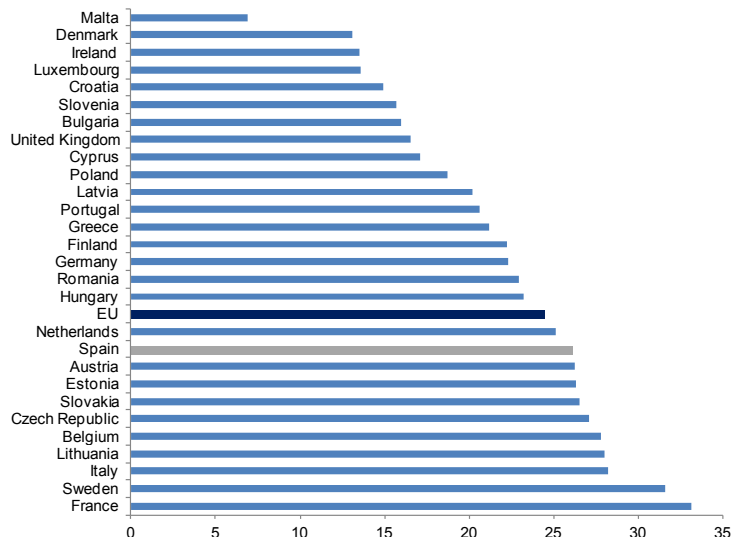
Source: Eurostat.

coincided with Spain’s share (26%) in 2014. Spain had a lower share of non-wage costs than France (33.1%), Italy (28.2%), Lithuania (28%), Belgium (27.8%) and Slovakia (26.5%), but higher than Germany (22.3%), Finland (22.2%), Portugal (20.6%) and Ireland (13.5%) (Exhibit I.3).

In sum, compared with other European economies, Spain does not stand out for its high labor costs (though non-wage costs are relatively higher than wage costs). However, international differences in labor costs may reflect differences in productivity across countries. Countries with lower labor costs

Exhibit I.3

Non-wage labor costs (2014) [percentage of total labor costs]



Source: Eurostat.

do not necessarily have a competitive advantage vis-à-vis countries with higher costs. Thus, an appropriate evaluation of labor costs should take into consideration the issue of productivity.

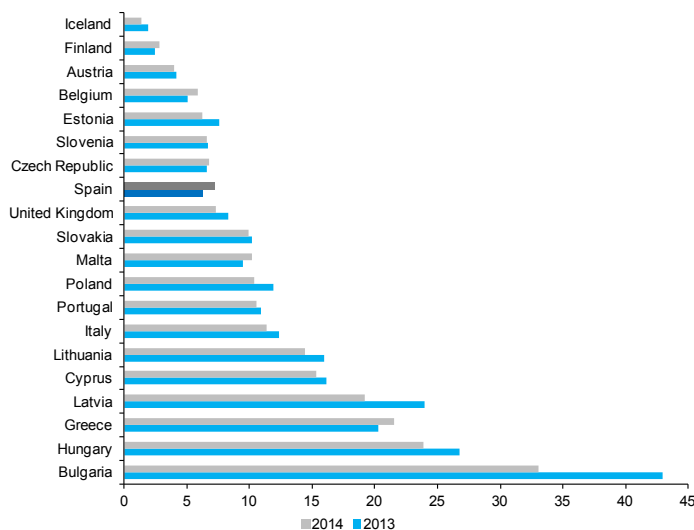
I.2. Moderate but increasing material deprivation rate

Recently published (provisional) statistics show that between 2013 and 2014 there was an increase in the percentage of people residing in Spain and living in households that cannot afford some services or expenses defined as indicative of material adequacy.¹ A full European comparison is so far not possible, since some Member States have not yet provided data for 2014. According to available information, Belgium, Spain and Greece

are the European countries which have witnessed a rise in material deprivation rates. Nevertheless, in Spain and Belgium this situation affects about one out of thirteen/fourteen people (7% and 5.9%, respectively), while in Greece, one out of every four persons suffers this kind of hardship (21.7%). Together with Greece, the highest severe material deprivation rates in 2014 have been found in Bulgaria (33.1%), Hungary and Latvia (19.2%), while the lowest rates were recorded in Finland (2.8%) and Austria (4%) (Exhibit I.4).

Exhibit I.4

Severe material deprivation rates (2013-2014)



Note: Data for Denmark, Germany, Ireland, France, Croatia, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Romania and Sweden are not available.

Source: Eurostat (EU-SILC).

¹ Severe material deprivation is defined as not being able to pay for at least four of the following nine items: mortgage or rent payments, one week's holiday away from home, a meal with meat, chicken, fish or vegetarian equivalent every second day, unexpected financial expenses, a telephone (including mobile telephone), a color TV, a washing machine, a car and heating to keep the home sufficiently warm.

Section II. Public opinion trends

II.1. Slowly growing optimism about the economic situation

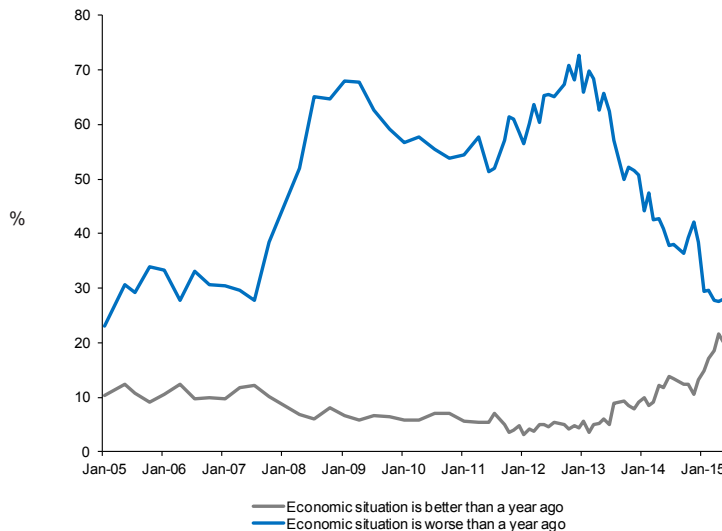
Despite the improvement in macroeconomic conditions since 2013, Spaniards only modestly admit to the improvement of the economy. Before the crisis, the proportion of people conceding that the economic situation was better than a year ago amounted to about one tenth. This proportion decreased sharply between 2008 and 2013, and did not recover to pre-crisis levels until 2014. Only since the beginning of 2015 did public perceptions of the improving economic situation gain momentum, while the proportion of people dissenting from this opinion (*i.e.*, saying that the situation is worse than a year ago) is

abruptly falling. Nonetheless, this second group (“pessimists”) keeps outnumbering the first one (“optimists”). Thus, according to the latest published opinion poll by the Center for Sociological Research (May 2015), one fifth of Spaniards (20.1%) recognized that the economic situation was better than a year ago (a percentage slightly lower than in April 2015), while 28% considered it worse (Exhibit II.1).

However, when the interviewees are asked about the future, optimism has beaten pessimism since January 2015: in May, the proportion of respondents saying that the economic situation would improve within the next year (29.3%) was more than double the proportion of respondents stating the opposite view (13.1%). Nonetheless, the majority remained skeptical about the economic forecasts of the national government, international institutions and several experts and did not expect any changes (Exhibit II.2)

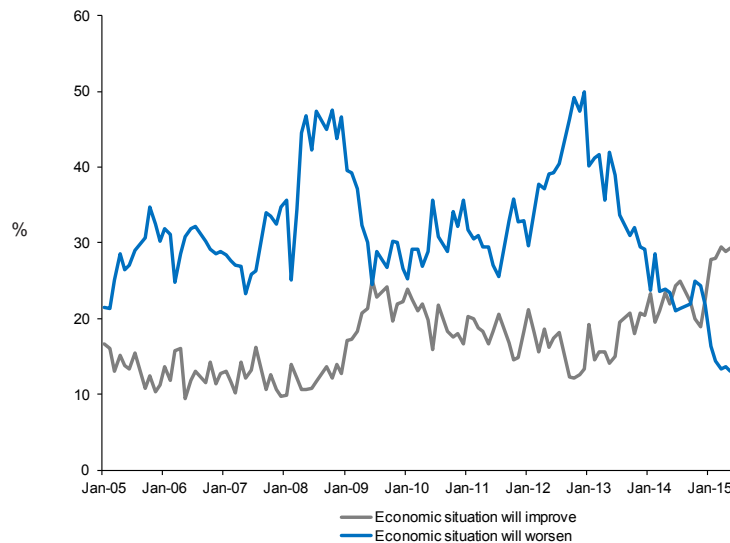
Section II. Public opinion trends

Exhibit II.1
Retrospective evaluation of the current economic situation



Question: “And do you think that the economic situation of the country is better, worse or the same as a year ago?”
Source: Centro de Investigaciones Sociológicas (CIS), Opinion Barometers (www.cis.es).

Exhibit II.2

Prospective evaluation of the economic situation

Question: "And do you think that the economic situation of the country will be better, worse or the same within a year?"

Source: Centro de Investigaciones Sociológicas (CIS), Opinion Barometers (www.cis.es).

II.2. Improving public image of the monarchy

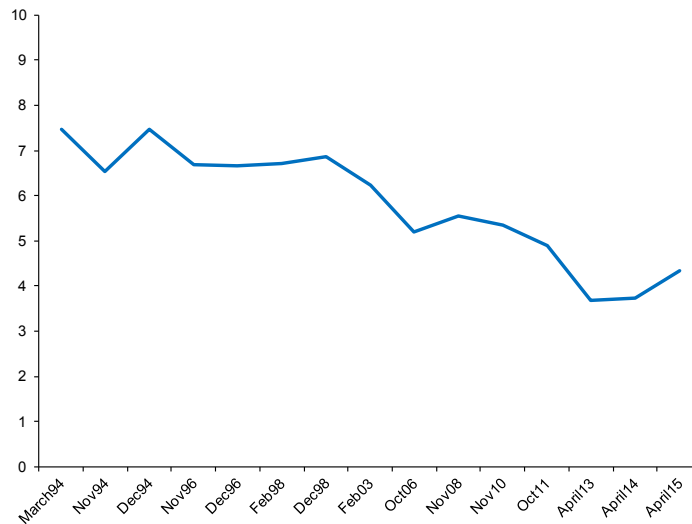
One year after the resignation of King Juan Carlos I, the image of the Spanish monarchy shows signs of improvement. Against the backdrop of growing social criticism and distance towards traditional political institutions such as parties, governments and parliaments, between April 2014 and April 2015, the average evaluation of the monarchy increased from 3.72 to 4.34 on a ten-point scale. This figure is still below the conventional pass mark (5) and far from the score the monarchical institution achieved in the early nineties (around 7). However, it breaks the downward trend observable since 2008 (Exhibit II.3), which reached its floor in April 2013 (3.68) after scandals involving the Royal family were revealed in 2011 and 2012.²

This trend reversal appears to be linked with the performance of Felipe VI, who was proclaimed monarch in June 2014. Ten months later, in April 2015, 57% of Spaniards positively rated the new King, three times as many as those who expressed a negative opinion (18%) (Exhibit II.4). Moreover, there may be a considerable margin to increase the King's positive evaluation since the proportion of people who abstained from appraising him is strikingly high, exactly one quarter (25%). This group of non-respondents may include many citizens who do not back the institution of the monarchy, but refuse to disapprove King Felipe's takeoff.

² Data for 2012 are not available.

Exhibit II.3

Trust in the Monarchy (1994-2015) [scale 0-10]

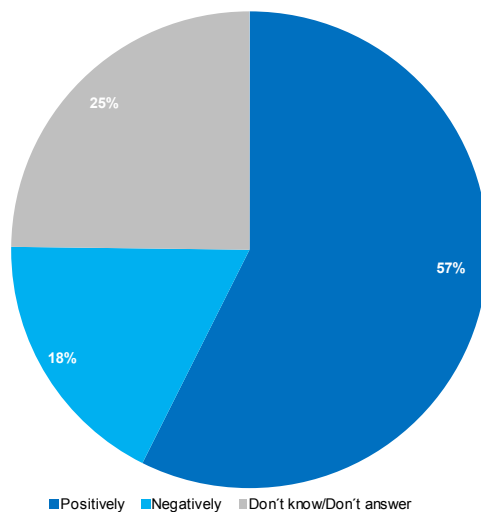


Question: "Now I would like you to tell me the level of trust you have towards diverse institutions by using a ten point scale in which 0 means that you have no trust and 10 that you have a lot of trust. (Monarchy)"

Source: Centro de Investigaciones Sociológicas (CIS), Opinion Barometers 1994-2015 (www.cis.es).

Exhibit II.4

Assessment of King Felipe's performance (April 2015)



Question: "On the brink of fulfilling his first year as proclaimed monarch, how do you rate King Felipe's performance?"

Source: Centro de Investigaciones Sociológicas (CIS), Opinion Barometer April 2015 (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 entries (EU born) (%)
2006	44,708,964	40.63	16.74	77.71	84.16	47.49	24.63	10.82	840,844	37.57
2007	45,200,737	40.76	16.66	77.79	84.14	47.41	24.55	11.61	958,266	41.69
2008	46,157,822	40.81	16.54	78.23	84.34	47.47	24.49	13.10	726,009	28.40
2009	46,745,807	40.92	16.65	78.63	84.66	47.81	24.61	13.83	498,977	31.98
2010	47,021,031	41.12	16.87	79.06	85.05	48.63	25.03	14.05	464,443	35.54
2011	47,190,493	41.36	17.15	79.32	85.16	49.43	25.51	14.15	454,686	36.87
2012	47,265,321	41.63	17.40	79.38	85.13	50.39	26.14	14.30	370,515	36.32
2013	47,129,783	41.87	17.69	79.98	85.60	50.65	26.64	14.08	342,390	36.55
2014	46,771,341	42.14	18.05			51.58	27.36	13.43		
2015*	46,600,949	42.44	18.40			52.39	28.03	13.21		
<i>Sources</i>	PMC	PMC	PMC	ID INE	ID INE	PMC	PMC	PMC	EVR	EVR

ID INE: *Indicadores Demográficos INE.*

PMC: *Padrón Municipal Continuo.*

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	One-person households <65 years (%)	One-person households >65 years (%)
2006	15,856.2	2.76	11.6	10.27
2007	16,280.5	2.74	11.8	10.20
2008	16,742.0	2.71	12.0	10.24
2009	17,068.2	2.68	12.6	9.88
2010	17,173.9	2.67	12.8	9.93
2011	17,344.1	2.65	13.2	9.79
2012	17,434.4	2.63	13.7	9.91
2013	17,404.2	2.62	13.9	10.29
2014	18,328.9	2.51		
2015	18,363.5	2.50		
<i>Sources</i>	LFS	LFS	EPF	EPF

Table III.2

Households and families (continued)

Nuptiality						
	Marriage rate (Spanish)	Marriage rate (foreign population)	Separations and divorces	Mean age at first marriage, men	Mean age at first marriage, women	Same sex marriages (%)
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	7.17	6.74	127,160	33.8	31.6	2.04
2013	6.56	6.48	124,975	34.3	32.2	2.05
2014			133,643			
<i>Sources</i>	ID INE	ID INE	CGPJ	ID INE	ID INE	ID INE

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 (%)
2006	29.32	1.31	1.69	28.36	10.62	
2007	29.45	1.31	1.72	30.25	11.49	
2008	29.30	1.36	1.83	33.16	11.78	55.56
2009	29.60	1.31	1.68	34.48	11.41	57.21
2010	29.83	1.30	1.68	35.52	11.49	58.30
2011	30.12	1.29	1.58	37.37	12.44	59.99
2012	30.25	1.27	1.56	38.96	12.01	61.67
2013	30.91	1.23	1.52	40.86		
<i>Sources</i>	ID INE	ID INE	ID INE	ID INE	MSAN	MSAN

LFS: *Labor 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.

Marriage rate: Number of marriages 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 (%)
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
2013	27.3	7.3	18.1	27.7
2014	24.4	6.1	27.2	42.3
2015	23.7	6.1	27.3	41.0
<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 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**	1,450,036	111,087
2013/14*	1,884,886	698,057	784,413**	1,438,115	109,113
<i>Source</i>	MECD	MECD	MECD	MECD	MECD

Students abroad**Education expenditure**

	University (under-graduate)	Public expenditure (thousands of €)	Household expenditure (€)
2006		42,512,586	8,244
2007		46,459,265	8,522
2008	10,232	50,880,439	8,505
2009	10,758	53,092,220	8,762
2010	11,766	52,720,999	9,085
2011	13,790	50,714,177	9,194*
2012	16,561	46,789,649*	
2013			
<i>Sources</i>	Eurostat	MECD	CN INE

LFS: *Labor Force Survey*.

MECD: Ministerio de Educación, Cultura y Deporte.

CN INE: Contabilidad Nacional del INE.

* Provisional data.

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

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	1,310,915	27.9	5,451,465	979.5	935,220	907.6	2,336,240	617.6
2014	1,059,799	27.0	5,558,964	999.8	929,484	915.6	2,348,388	624.0
2015	886,401♦	27.1•	5,618,554♦	1,014.6♦	928,426♦	921.5♦	2,351,856♦	628.8♦
Source	BEL	BEL	BEL	BEL	BEL	BEL	BEL	BEL

Non-contributory benefits

	Social Security			
	Unemployment	Retirement	Disability	Other
2006	558,702	276,920	204,844	82,064
2007	575,675	270,980	203,401	71,818
2008	646,186	265,314	199,410	63,626
2009	960,888	260,908	197,126	56,396
2010	1,445,228	257,136	196,159	49,535
2011	1,331,316	254,295	194,712	43,116
2012	1,327,027	251,549	194,876	36,310
2013	1,313,986	250,815	195,478	30,725
2014	1,221,390	252,328	197,303	26,842
2015♦	1,166,485	254,029	198,710	24,704
Sources	IMERSO	IMERSO	IMERSO	BEL

BEL: *Boletín de Estadísticas Laborales*.

IMERSO: Instituto de Mayores y Servicios Sociales.

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

♦ Data refer to January-April.

• Data refer to January-February.

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	Population over 45 who consider their health "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	2.4	1.7	3.8	5.3		
<i>Sources</i>	OECD	OECD	INE	INE	INCLASNS	ENS

OECD: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

INE: Instituto Nacional de Estadística.

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

ENS: *Encuesta Nacional de Salud*.

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