

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.

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Section I. Spain in Europe

I.1. Delaying effective pension age and decreasing early retirement

The financial sustainability of public pension systems and the need to promote longer working lives is frequently on the public agenda of many European countries, among them Spain. Sustainability concerns are based on the ageing population and the subsequent extension of the period during which workers receive pensions. In view of this challenge, early retirement is being increasingly perceived as a problematic phenomenon in need of reversal.

Spanish governments have tried to curb early retirement through different policies during the last decade. In fact, the average effective pension age has increased from 2005 onwards. According to the OECD, in 2012 (last available data) it amounted to 62.3 years for men and 63.2 years for women. Thus, effective retirement age in that year was higher in Spain than in Germany (62.1 and 61.6), Greece (61.9 and 60.3), Italy (61.1 and 60.5) and France (59.7 and 60), but lower than

in The Netherlands (63.6 and 62.3), the United Kingdom (63.7 and 63.2), Sweden (66.1 and 64.2) and Portugal (68.4 and 66.4) (Exhibits I.1a and I.1b). Spanish official sources record a higher effective retirement age than the OECD (63.9 in 2012), but too have confirmed its increase (64.3 in 2013).

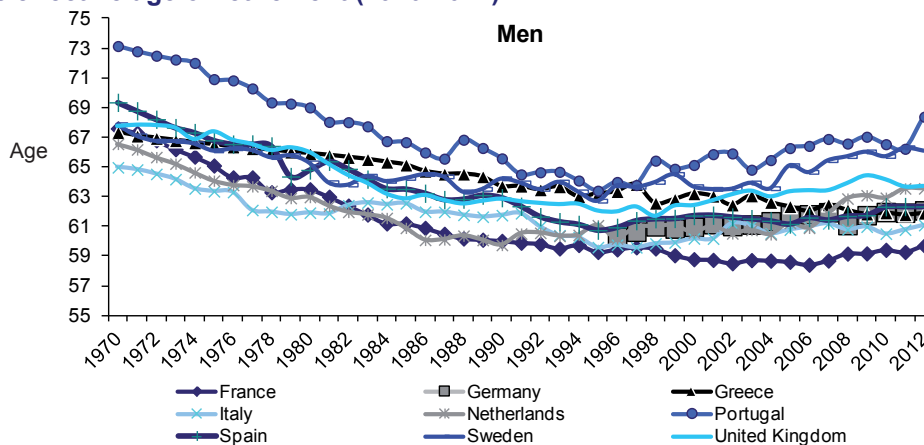
Labor Force Survey (LFS) data also show that Spain has not witnessed an increase in early retirement during the crisis. While the number of early retirees among people aged between 53 and 64 years has remained quite stable (644,000 in 2014), their proportion has fallen from 14% in 2005 to 11% in 2014. The drop has been more significant among male workers. In 2005, 20% of male workers aged 53-64 were early pensioners; in 2014, their share was five percentage points lower. Among female workers in this age group, the percentage of early retirees has stayed virtually unchanged between those years around 6-7%.¹

I.2. Distinctive social protection spending

According to last available Eurostat comparative data, in 2013 the main welfare state functions

Exhibit I.1a

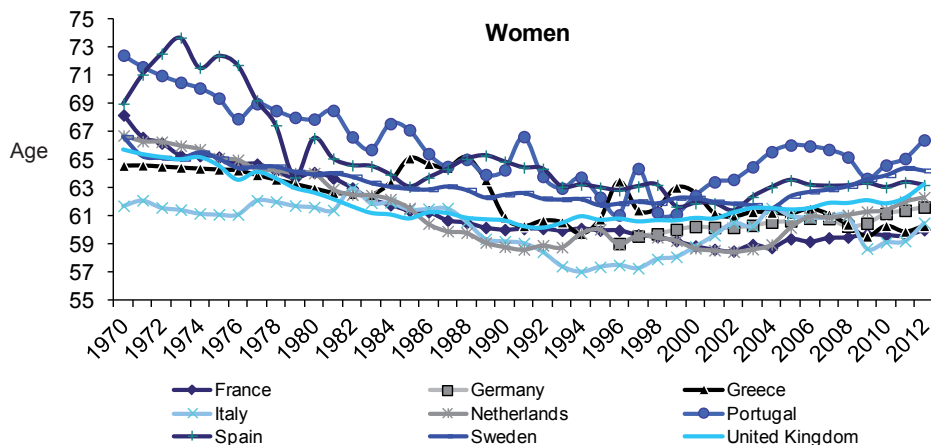
Average effective age of retirement (1970-2012)



Source: OECD.

¹Data calculated by Prof. Luis Garrido Medina.

Exhibit I.1b

Average effective age of retirement (1970-2012)

Source: OECD.

(social protection, health and education) absorbed 27.6% of Spanish GDP, 4.2 percentage points below the EU-28 average (Table I.1). Of these three functions, the most expensive is social protection, which includes benefits and services related to old age, sickness/disability, survivors' benefits, unemployment, family/children, housing

and social exclusion. Taking a closer look at social protection, the Spanish expenditure percentage in terms of GDP (17.6%) has increased one percentage point between 2010 and 2013 (from 16.6% to 17.6%). Though significantly lower than in France (24.5%), Denmark (25.1%), Finland (24.9%), Sweden (22.6%) or Italy (21%),

Table I.1

Government spending on the main welfare state functions (2013)

	Health	Education	Social protection	Total (% GDP)	Total (% government expenditure)
EU-28	7.2	5.0	19.6	31.8	65.3
Belgium	7.9	6.4	19.7	34.0	62.5
Denmark	8.7	7.0	25.1	40.8	71.5
Finland	8.4	6.5	24.9	39.8	68.8
France	8.1	5.5	24.5	38.1	66.7
Germany	7.0	4.3	18.9	30.2	68.1
Greece	5.1	4.5	19.2	28.8	48.6
Ireland	7.1	4.1	15.7	26.9	66.2
Italy	7.2	4.1	21.0	32.3	63.4
Luxembourg	5.3	5.6	19.6	30.5	69.0
Netherlands	8.3	5.5	17.2	31.0	66.2
Portugal	6.7	6.8	19.1	32.6	64.6
Spain*	6.0	4.0	17.6	27.6	62.4
Sweden	7.0	6.5	22.6	36.2	67.8
United Kingdom	7.6	5.5	16.9	30.0	65.9

Note: * Provisional data.

Source: Eurostat.

Table I.2

Government spending on social protection (2013)

	% GDP	% of total government expenditure
EU-28	19.6	40.2
Belgium	19.7	36.1
Denmark	25.1	43.9
Finland	24.9	43.1
France	24.5	42.9
Germany	18.9	42.6
Greece	19.2	32.4
Ireland	15.7	38.6
Italy	21.0	41.3
Luxembourg	19.6	44.4
Netherlands	17.2	36.7
Portugal	19.1	37.8
Spain*	17.6	39.7
Sweden	22.6	42.3
United Kingdom	16.9	37.2

Note: * Provisional data.

Source: Eurostat.

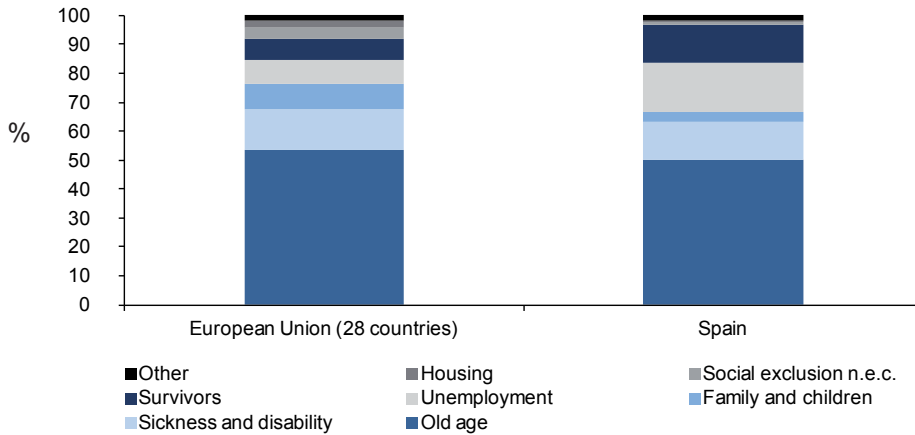
social protection expenditure in Spain is quite comparable to that recorded in The Netherlands (17.2%), the United Kingdom (16.9%) and Ireland (15.7%) (and also in Norway: 17.5%). Likewise, Spain shares with the latter countries a similar percentage of social protection expenditure in terms of total government expenditure (around 40%) (table I.2).

Differences are more marked when it comes to the specific distribution of social protection outlays. In all EU countries, old age represents the lion's share of social protection. Spain's spending on old age in terms of GDP amounts to 85% of the EU-28 average. But the most outstanding differences of Spanish social protection spending with respect to the EU average are to be found, on the one hand, in unemployment (188%) and survivors' benefits (164%), and on the other hand, in family/children (35%) and social exclusion (25%) (Exhibit I.2). While the spending discrepancy as regards unemployment benefits can be explained in terms of persistently high unemployment rates, the comparatively large spending on survivors' benefits and small spending on families/children

and social exclusion are to a great extent a consequence of political choices and institutional inertias.

Exhibit I.2

Composition of social protection spending (EU-28 and Spain, 2013)



Source: Eurostat.

Section II. Public opinion trends

II.1. Low social trust, but lower institutional trust

As the Nobel-prize laureate in Economics Kenneth Arrow wrote in the early seventies, “virtually every commercial transaction has within itself an element of trust”. Trust has a positive impact on the economy, motivating economic agents to participate in transactions with each other. Thus, the level of generalized trust of a society represents an important variable with economic implications which merit regular assessment.

According to the last World Values Survey (2010-2014),¹ Spanish society shows a comparatively low level of trust. The proportion of Spaniards who think that “most people can be trusted” (19%)

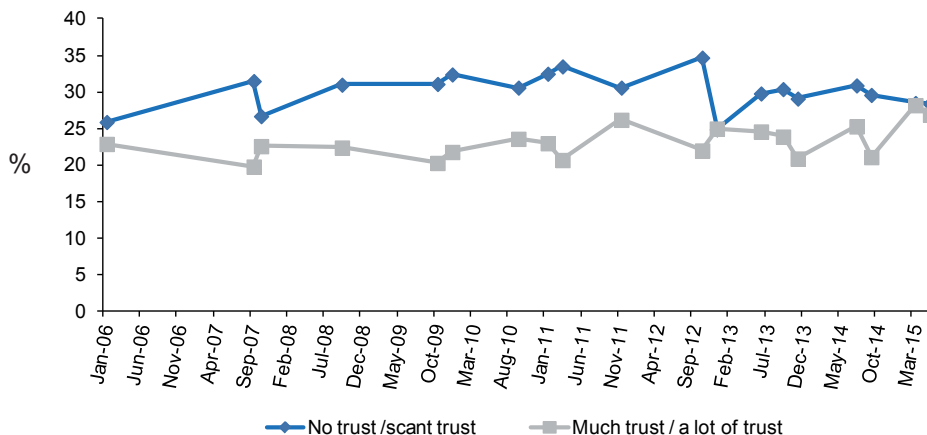
is less than half that of Germans (45%), and less than a third of the corresponding proportions recorded in Sweden (60%) or The Netherlands (66%).

Moreover, data collected by the Center for Sociological Research in Spain (CIS) indicate a weakening of generalized trust during the last decade. In 2006, around one quarter of the Spanish population (26%) backed the opinion: “One is never cautious enough when relating with other people”, while a slightly smaller proportion (23%) thought that “in general people can be trusted”.² The amount of “cautious” people increased during some of the crisis years to nearly a third of the population, whereas that of “trustful” people stayed around 20% (Exhibit II.1).

But the most radical changes as regards trust levels apply to political institutions. The loss of trust during the crisis has particularly hit political parties, trade unions and employers’ organizations (Exhibit II.2).

Exhibit II.1

Trust in people (2006-2015)



Question: “Would you say that, in general, that most people can be trusted or that one is never cautious enough when relating to other people? Please place yourself on a scale between 0 and 10, where 0 means ‘one is never cautious enough’ and 10 ‘most people can be trusted’”.

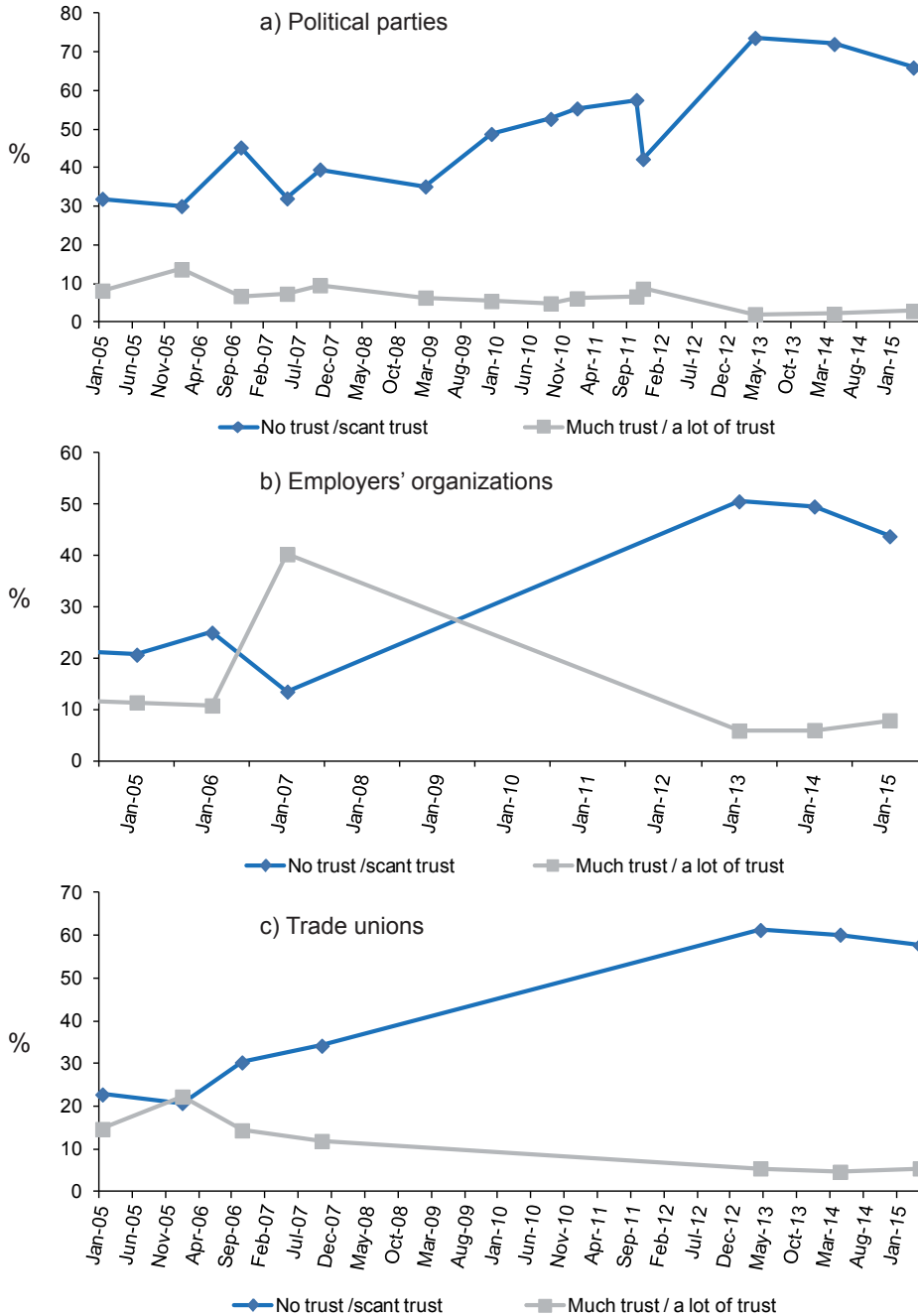
Source: Centro de Investigaciones Sociológicas / Center for Sociological Research (www.cis.es).

¹ World Values Survey data can be accessed through <http://www.worldvaluessurvey.org/WVSONline.jsp>

² The proportion of “cautious” people has been calculated by adding the percentages of interviewees answering between 0 and 3 on a 0-10 trust scale, while the proportion of “trustful” people equals the sum of interviewees replying between 7 and 10 on the same scale. Exhibit II.1 includes the wording of the corresponding question.

Exhibit II.2

Trust in institutions: political parties, trade unions and employers' organizations (2005-2015)



Question: "Now I would like you to tell me how much trust you have in several institutions using a scale between 0 and 10, where 0 means 'no trust' and 10 'a lot of trust'" (Political parties, trade unions, employers' organizations).
 Source: Centro de Investigaciones Sociológicas / Center for Sociological Research (www.cis.es).

According to last available data, the level of trust in Spanish society may be timidly recovering. Though the percentage of “cautious” people remains high (28%), the proportion of “trustful” people suggests a positive trend in social trust (Exhibit II.1). The trend of decreasing institutional trust also seems to have halted since 2014, but the degree of trust in institutions is still significantly lower than before the crisis.

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		
Sources	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	Households with one person younger than 65 (%)	Households with one person older than 65 (%)
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	18,365.4	2.50		
Sources	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♦	23.6	6.4	27.3	41.1
Source	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*
Source	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			
Sources	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.

♦ First and second quarters.

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	847,691■	27.1•	5,624,339♦	1,022.1♦	929,600♦	923.8♦	2,351,784♦	631.0♦
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	1,137,549■	253,833♦	198,820♦	24,160♦
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-July.

• Data refer to January-February.

■ Data refer to January-June.

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	4.5	0.72	51.27
2007	8.5	71.8	3.6	4.6	0.74	
2008	8.9	73.0	3.5	4.8	0.75	
2009	9.6	75.0	3.6	5.0	0.74	
2010	9.6	74.4	3.8	5.2	0.74	
2011	9.4	73.4	3.8	5.2		58.70
2012	9.3	71.7	3.8	5.2		
2013	8.9	70.4	3.8	5.1		
<i>Sources</i>	WHO	WHO	OECD	OECD	INCLASNS	ENS

OECD: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

WHO: World Health Organization.

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

ENS: *Encuesta Nacional de Salud*.

Orders and information:

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