

*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**

- I.1. Strong employment growth in 2015: Higher gains for immigrants
- I.2. Increasing population at risk of poverty or exclusion in 2014:  
Social inequality and low work intensity

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

- Interest in public issues on the rise

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

- Population, households and families, education and social protection

## Section I. Spain in Europe

### I.1. Strong employment growth in 2015: Higher gains for male immigrants

According to Labor Force Survey data published by Eurostat, Spanish employment growth has outperformed the Euro area average (EA-18) since the second quarter of 2014, leading the ranking of European Union countries since the fourth quarter of that year (Exhibit I.1). Who has benefited the most from this employment growth in Spain?

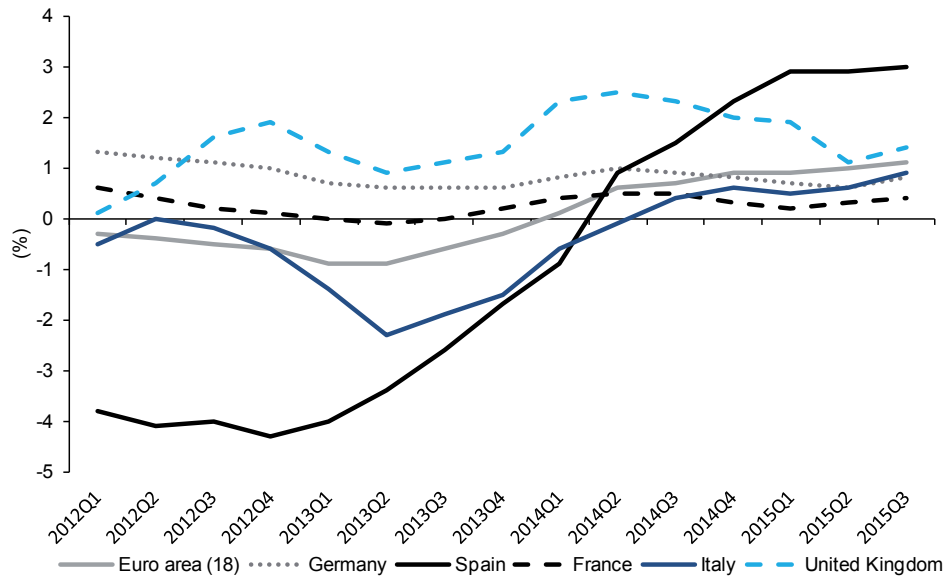
If we distinguish between Spanish and migrant workers, we observe that the latter have fared better than the former. In fact, between the first quarter of 2014 and the last quarter of 2015 the number of employed male labor migrants (16-69 years) increased by ca. 103,000 (from 744,500 to 847,600), while their employment rate rose from 49.7 to 60.3%. Thus, their employment rate grew

more than twice the employment rate of native born males (from 56.8 to 60.8%) (Exhibit I.2). Employment growth has been particularly high among young male migrant workers (16-29 years). The number of employed male in this age group amounted to 134,900 in the first quarter of 2014, whereas it totaled 163,300 in the last quarter of 2015. While male Spaniards (born in Spain) between 16 and 29 increased their employment rate by 1.5 points during this period, male labor migrants in the same age group raised it by nearly 11 points (Exhibit I.3). This difference may be grounded in the “back to school” strategy of Spanish young people during the crisis. The much lower employment growth of Spanish young people between 2014 and 2015 suggests a preference for staying in the classroom instead of rushing into the labor market. Perhaps they have learned the lesson that “early exit from school” to work is risky and that higher educational levels provide work advantages.

As regards women, their employment rates grew less throughout this two year period (notice that their drop during the crisis was less drastic than that of males), while the differences between

Exhibit I.1

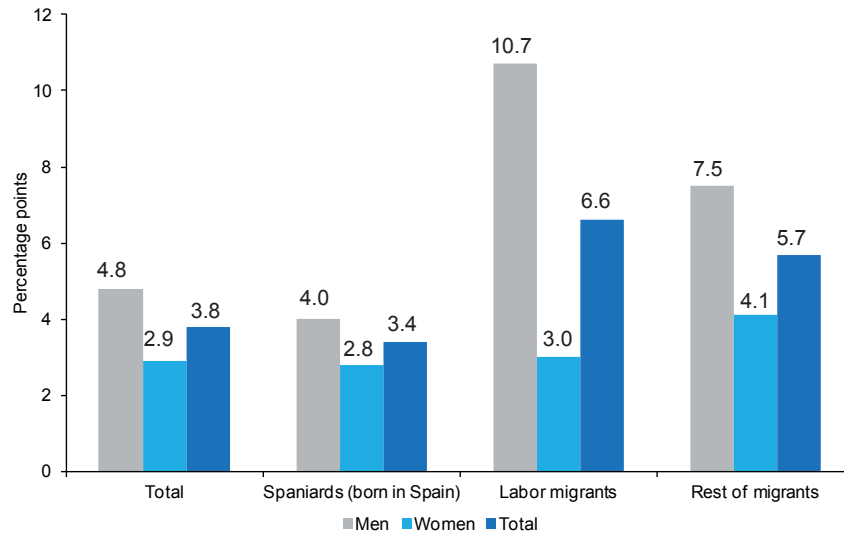
#### Employment growth in selected European countries (2012/1Q-2015/3Q)



Source: Eurostat (lfsi\_grt\_q).

Exhibit I.2

**Variation in the male employment rate in percentage points (Spain, 2014/1Q-2015/4Q)**



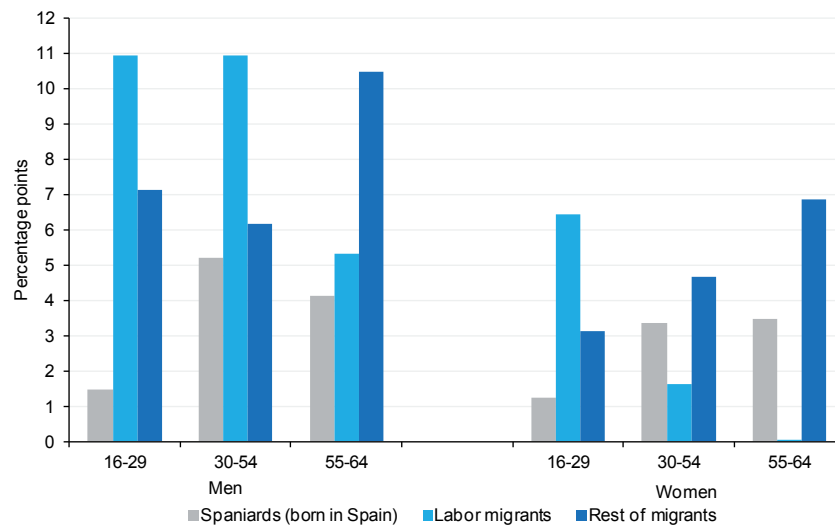
Note 1: The employment rate is the percentage of employed people in a defined group with respect to the total population of that group.

Note 2: The category Spaniards (born in Spain) excludes naturalized immigrants; since massive immigration to Spain took place as of 2000, second generation migrants born in Spain are practically also excluded from this category. Labor migrants are those (non EU-15) individuals who have the nationality of a country with a lower GDP per capita than Spain.

Source: Spanish LFS 2014Q1 and 2015Q4 (Data categorization and analysis by Luis Garrido Medina).

Exhibit I.3

**Variation in the employment rate in percentage points by origin, age and sex (Spain, 2014/1Q-2015/4Q)**



Source: Spanish LFS 2014Q1 and 2015Q4 (Data categorization and analysis by Luis Garrido Medina).

Spanish and migrant female workers are less significant (Exhibit I.3).

**I.2. Increasing population at risk of poverty or exclusion in 2014: Social inequality and low work intensity**

Recently published statistics by Eurostat allude to the difficulty of achieving one of the aims established in the EU 2020 Strategy: reducing by ca. 20 million the people at risk of poverty or exclusion (AROPE). Since the announcement of this Strategy in 2010 until 2014, the estimated number of people in this category has increased by more than 4 million in the EU-27: from 116.8 to 121.1 million.

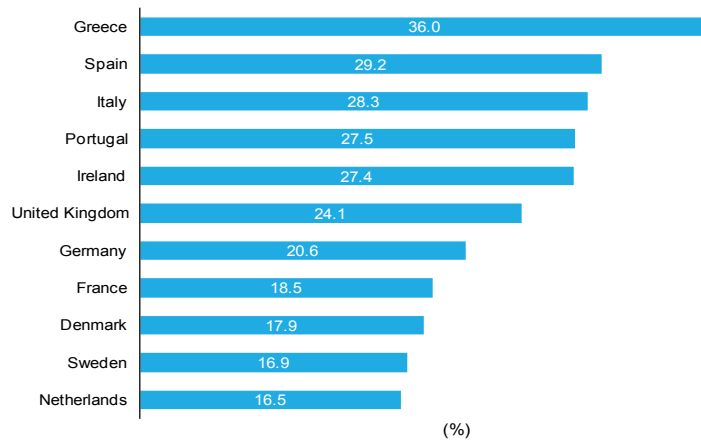
People defined as being at risk of poverty or exclusion are those who meet at least one of three conditions: income poverty<sup>1</sup>, severe material deprivation<sup>2</sup> or low work intensity.<sup>3</sup> While income poverty represents

a measure of social inequality, severe material deprivation is a proxy of absolute poverty, and work intensity indicates the extent of unemployment.

In 2014, 24.4% of people living in the EU-27 were under risk of poverty or social exclusion. However, this average masks significant national differences. Bulgaria and Romania are the countries with the highest AROPE rate (both around 40%), closely followed by Greece (36%). Next comes the group formed by Spain, Italy, Portugal, Ireland and the Baltic states (between 26% and 33%). The rest of countries generally display AROPE rates around 20%, with The Netherlands, Sweden and Finland presenting the lowest rates (16%-17%) (Exhibit I.4). These significant differences in the AROPE rate between member countries existed before the crisis. Even though the crisis has pushed up the AROPE rates in most nations, it has not substantially changed their ranking.

Exhibit I.4

**People at risk of poverty or exclusion in selected EU countries (2014)**



Source: Eurostat (ilc\_peps01).

<sup>1</sup> Income poor are those people whose equivalised disposable income (after social transfers) is below 60% of the national median equivalised income (after social transfers).

<sup>2</sup> Severely materially deprived are those people unable to afford at least four of the following items: pay unexpected expenses, pay rent, mortgage or utility bills, spend a one-week annual holiday away from home, eat meat, chicken or fish every second day, adequately heat the dwelling, own a washing machine, a colour television, a telephone or car.

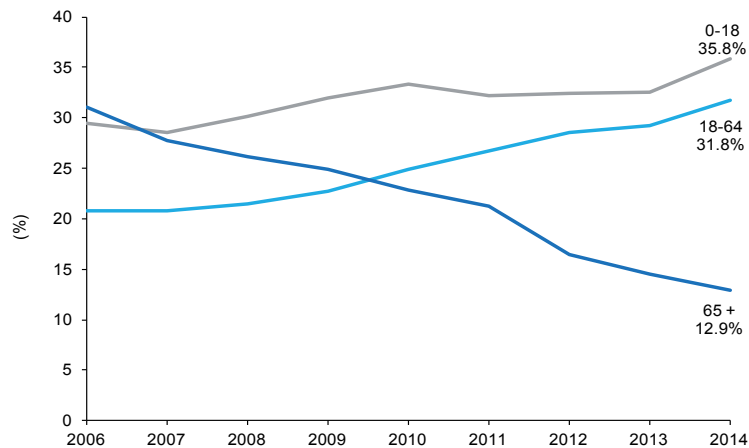
<sup>3</sup> Number of persons less than 60 living in a household with a work intensity lower than 0.2; work intensity is the ratio of the total number of months worked by all working-age household members and the total number of months the same household members theoretically could have worked in the same period.

Spain belongs to the group of countries in which the AROPE rate has soared during the crisis. In 2014, 29.2% of people were considered at risk of poverty or exclusion, a figure 5.2 points higher than in 2006. The evolution of the AROPE rate displays major differences among age groups. As shown in Exhibit I.5, the risk of poverty or exclusion has increased during the crisis years among the population below 65, but it has shrunk among the elderly population. In fact, Spain ranks among the countries with lowest AROPE rates in this group.

A closer look at the different variables included in the AROPE rate provides more specific evidence about the risk of poverty in Spain. The country fares poorly as regards the first and the third indicator (income distribution and work-intensity), but its performance on material deprivation is less negative. The severe material deprivation rate (7.1% in 2015) has consistently fallen below the EU-28 average (Exhibit I.6).

Exhibit I.5

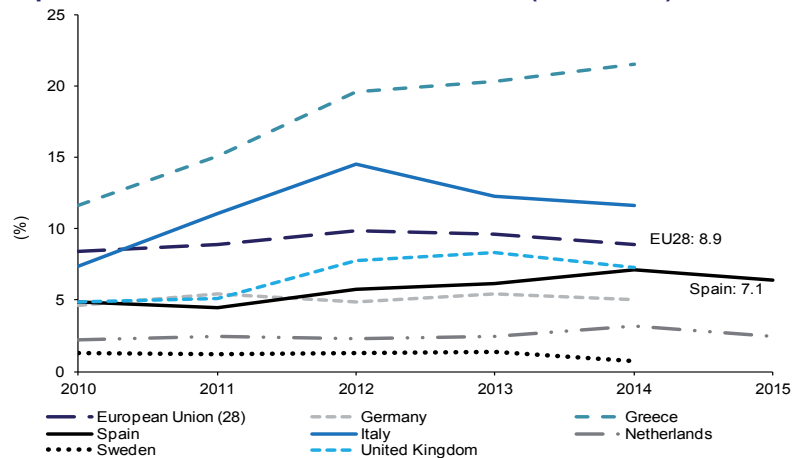
**People at risk of poverty or exclusion by age (Spain, 2006-2014)**



Source: Eurostat (ilc\_peps01).

Exhibit I.6

**Severe material deprivation rate in selected EU countries (2010-2014)**



Source: Eurostat (ilc\_mddd13).

## Section II. Public opinion trends

### Interest in public issues on the rise

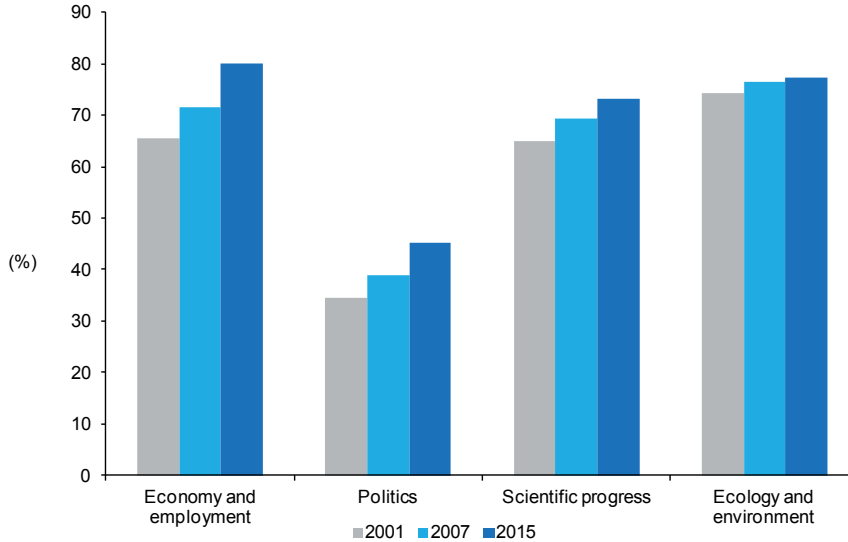
Interest in public issues has increased since the beginning of the century according to national representative surveys administered by the Center for Sociological Research (CIS) in 2001, 2007 and 2015. In the spring of 2001, between two thirds and three quarters of the Spanish population declared themselves much or fairly interested in economic and labor issues, scientific

progress and ecology. Political issues elicited a more moderate interest.

Six years later, in March 2007, the proportion of people interested in these issues was larger, while the ranking stayed the same. Data collected in December 2015 show a new increase, which is particularly outstanding with reference to economic issues: four out of five interviewees manifested high interest for these questions. The proportion of people interested in politics has also increased, but political news still attract less attention than economic news: less than half of the population admits being very or fairly interested in politics (Exhibit II.1). On the basis of these data it may be questioned whether mass media, with their prevailing emphasis on politics, are effectively satisfying the public's interest in public issues.

Exhibit II.1

### Interest in public issues (2001, 2007 and 2015)



Question: "We get daily a great amount of news about very diverse issues. I would like you to tell me, for each of the issues that I am going to read you, if you are very, fairly, scarcely or not at all interested."

Source: Centro de Investigaciones Sociológicas / Center for Sociological Research ([www.cis.es](http://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	37.60
2007	45,200,737	40.76	16.66	77.79	84.14	47.41	24.55	11.61	958,266	41.71
2008	46,157,822	40.81	16.54	78.23	84.34	47.47	24.49	13.10	726,009	28.43
2009	46,745,807	40.92	16.65	78.63	84.66	47.81	24.61	13.83	498,977	32.02
2010	47,021,031	41.12	16.87	79.06	85.05	48.63	25.03	14.05	464,443	35.57
2011	47,190,493	41.36	17.15	79.32	85.16	49.43	25.51	14.15	454,686	36.91
2012	47,265,321	41.63	17.40	79.38	85.13	50.39	26.14	14.30	370,515	36.36
2013	47,129,783	41.87	17.69	79.98	85.60	50.65	26.64	14.08	342,390	36.61
2014	46,771,341	42.14	18.05	80.08	85.58	51.58	27.36	13.43	399,947	37.98
2015	46,624,382	42.43	18.39			52.42	28.03	13.22		
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.

Table III.2

### Households and families

#### Households

	Households number (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	10.3
2007	16,280.5	2.74	11.8	10.2
2008	16,742.0	2.71	12.0	10.2
2009	17,068.2	2.68	12.6	9.9
2010	17,173.9	2.67	12.8	9.9
2011	17,344.1	2.65	13.2	9.8
2012	17,434.4	2.63	13.7	9.9
2013	17,404.2	2.62	13.9	10.3
2014*	18,328.9	2.51	14.2	10.6
2015	18,375.9	2.54		
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	6.63	6.60	124,975	34.3	32.2	2.05
2014	6.95	6.46	133,643	34.4	32.3	2.06
<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	29.3	1.31	1.69	28.4	10.6	
2007	29.4	1.31	1.72	30.3	11.5	
2008	29.3	1.36	1.83	33.2	11.8	55.6
2009	29.6	1.31	1.68	34.5	11.4	57.2
2010	29.8	1.30	1.68	35.5	11.5	58.3
2011	30.1	1.29	1.58	37.4	12.4	60.0
2012	30.3	1.27	1.56	39.0	12.0	61.5
2013	30.4	1.23	1.53	40.8	11.7	62.2
2014	30.6	1.27	1.62	42.5	10.5	63.3
<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).

\* The magnitude change in 2014 LFS data is partly due to a methodological change.

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	23.3	6.6	27.5	40.9
<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)
2006	1,557,257	665,127	445,455	1,405,894	16,636
2007	1,643,016	659,573	451,541	1,389,249	34,695
2008	1,763,019	669,021	472,604	1,377,228	49,799
2009	1,819,402	692,054	517,344	1,404,115	81,840
2010	1,872,829	720,937	555,580	1,445,392	100,963
2011	1,917,236	684,176	582,940	1,469,653	113,061
2012	1,912,324	692,098	617,686	1,450,036	111,087
2013	1,884,342	696,648	646,158	1,438,115	109,113
2014	1.836.606♦	690.228♦	651.938♦	1,361,340	139,844
2015	1.798.213♦	697.699♦	658.301♦		
<i>Source</i>	MECD	MECD	MECD	MECD	MECD

**Education expenditure**

	Public expenditure (thousands of €)	Public expenditure (% GDP)
2006	43,441,331	4.31
2007	47,266,674	4.37
2008	51,716,008	4.63
2009	53,895,012	4.99
2010	53,099,329	4.91
2011	50,631,080	4.73
2012	46,476,414	4.46
2013	44,974,574	4.36
<i>Sources</i>	Eurostat	MECD

LFS: Labor Force Survey.

MECD: Ministerio de Educación, Cultura y Deporte.

CN INE: Contabilidad Nacional del Instituto Nacional de Estadística.

♦ Provisional data.

♦ Forecast.

\* The magnitude change in 2014 LFS data is partly due to a methodological change.

Table III.4

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

	Unemployment		Retirement		Permanent disability		Widowhood	
	Total		Total	Average amount (€)	Total	Average amount (€)	Total	Average amount (€)
2006	720,384		4,809,298	722.7	859,780	731.5	2,196,934	476.7
2007	780,205		4,863,256	760.0	888,776	760.7	2,225,501	498.3
2008	1,100,879		4,936,839	814.5	906,835	801.5	2,249,904	529.0
2009	1,624,792		5,038,861	854.1	920,863	831.5	2,270,283	553.9
2010	1,471,826		5,140,554	884.0	933,730	849.9	2,290,090	571.7
2011	1,328,020		5,246,241	915.2	938,491	869.5	2,309,332	586.4
2012	1,381,261		5,330,195	946.3	943,296	887.3	2,322,938	601.5
2013	1,310,915		5,451,465	979.5	935,220	907.6	2,336,240	617.6
2014	1,059,799		5,558,964	999.8	929,484	915.6	2,348,388	624.0
2015	838,392		5,641,908	1,021.0	931,668	923.3	2,353,257	630.6
2016*			5,686,975	1,033.2	934,846	927.5	2,354,686	634.6
Source	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	1,102,529	253,838	198,891	23,643
2016*		253,762	199,851	
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.

Table III.5

**Social protection: Health care**

	Total expenditure (% GDP)	Public expenditure (% total expenditure)	Total expenditure per cápita (\$)	Physicians per 1,000 inhabitants	Nurses per 1,000 inhabitants	Pharmaceutical expenditure (\$ per cápita)	Attendance primary care medicine per person/year
2006	7.8	72.5	2,395.2	3.6	4.5	470.2	
2007	7.8	72.7	2,571.4	3.6	4.6	488.8	5.96
2008	8.3	73.6	2,796.4	3.5	4.8	517.1	6.10
2009	9.0	75.4	2,946.1	3.6	5.0	537.8	5.56
2010	9.0	74.8	2,916.5	3.8	5.2	531.9	5.43
2011	9.1	73.8	2,957.0	3.8	5.2	525.7	5.51
2012	9.0	71.7	2,956.8	3.8	5.2	511.7	5.31
2013	8.8	71.5	2,898.4	3.8	5.1	545.0	5.30
<i>Sources</i>	<b>OECD</b>	<b>OECD</b>	<b>OECD</b>	<b>OECD</b>	<b>OECD</b>	<b>OECD</b>	<b>INCLASNS</b>

OECD: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

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







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