

*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, welfare and labor market.

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## Section I. Spain in Europe

### I.1. Among the top citizenship-granting countries

According to Eurostat, Spain heads the list of European countries which have granted citizenship rights between 2009 and 2014. Around five million persons obtained citizenship of a European Union (28) Member State throughout these years; approximately one out of every six of them (843,673) was naturalized as a citizen of Spain.<sup>1</sup> France and Italy followed Spain in the number of naturalized citizens (Table I.1 and Figure I.1).

These data cast some doubts about the consideration of Spain as one of the most restrictive countries concerning obtainment of citizenship

Table I.1

**Citizenship acquisition in selected European countries (2009-2014, accumulated)**

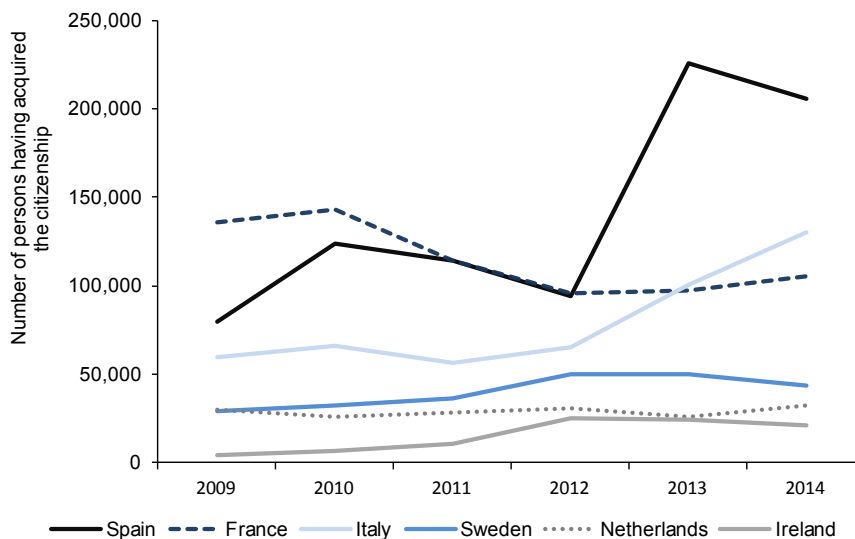
	2009-2014
Spain	843,673
France	692,622
Italy	477,442
Sweden	242,472
Belgium	189,328
Netherlands	174,139
Ireland	92,075
Hungary	68,744
Austria	42,770
Denmark	25,217
Luxembourg	22,188

Source: Eurostat [migr\_acq] (Germany, UK and Greece have not been included because of incomplete data).

because of the established requirements and the procedural formalities. In fact, if population size is

Figure I.1

**Evolution of citizenship acquisition in selected European countries (2009-2014)**

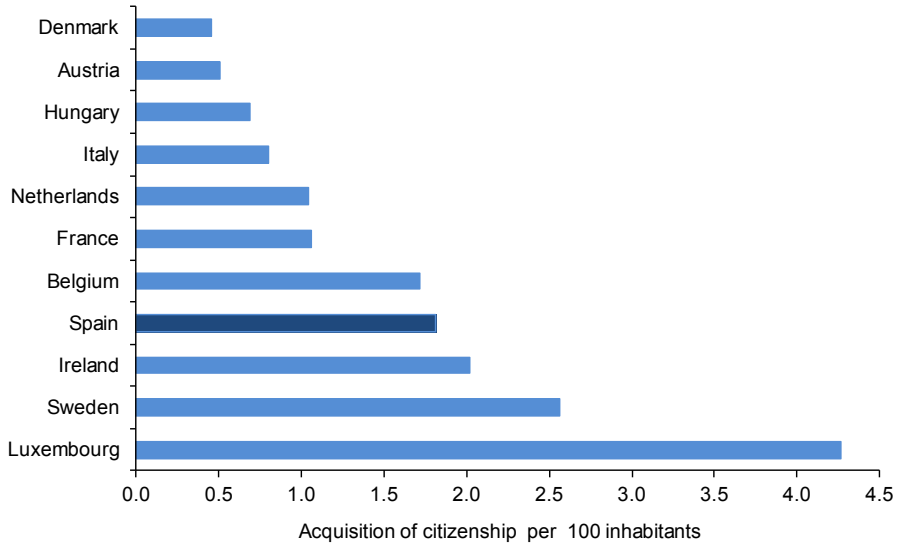


Source: Eurostat [migr\_acq] (Germany, UK and Greece have not been included because of incomplete data).

<sup>1</sup> It has to be observed that since 2012, Eurostat data on obtainment of citizenship do not coincide with the data provided by the Spanish General Secretary of Immigration and Emigration (Ministry of Labor and Social Security). We use here exclusively Eurostat data.

Figure I.2

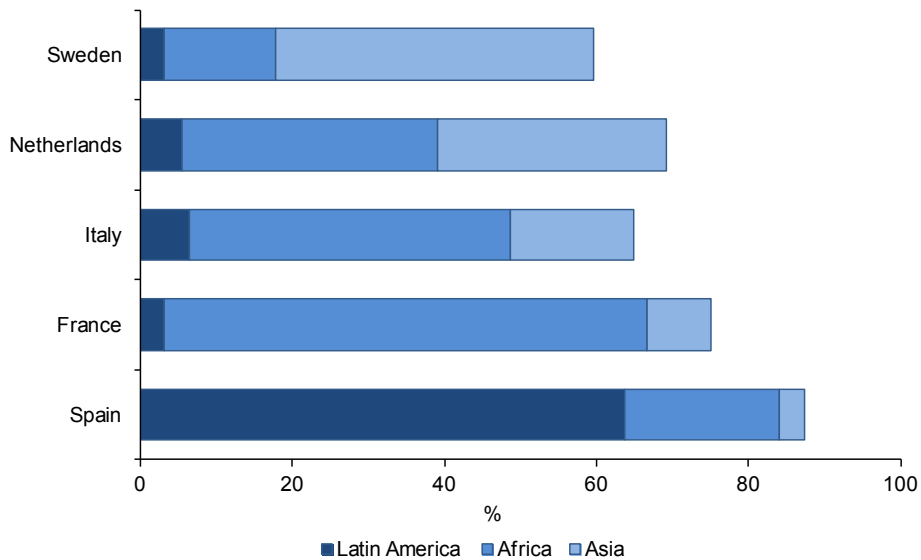
**Citizenship acquisition relative to total population in European countries (2009-2014 , accumulated)**



Source: Eurostat [migr\_acq] (Germany, UK and Greece have not been included because of incomplete data).

Figure I.3

**Citizenship acquisition in selected European countries by main region of origin of new citizens (2013-2014, accumulated)**



Source: Eurostat [migr\_acq] (Germany, UK and Greece have not been included because of incomplete data).

taken into account, the Spanish accomplishment in granting citizenship between 2009 and 2014 holds fourth place after Luxembourg, Sweden and Ireland, three small countries. Leaving aside the extraordinary case of Luxembourg, Sweden and Ireland naturalized ca. 2.6 and 2.0 per cent of their populations, respectively, whereas people who acquired Spanish citizenship amounted to ca. 1.8 per cent (Figure I.2).

The lion's share of naturalized Spanish citizens is of Latin American origin. In fact, nearly two out of three persons (64%) who obtained Spanish citizenship between 2013 and 2014 were born in Central and South America. In both years, more than 275,000 Latin American people obtained European citizenship through Spain. It has to be noted that requirements for Latin American people are less strict than for other immigrants: the former can apply for Spanish citizenship after two years of residency and need not renounce their previous citizenship;<sup>2</sup> in contrast, non-Latin American immigrants have to credit 10 years of residency in order to initiate the naturalization process and additionally give up their previous citizenship to become Spanish citizens.

However, the number of naturalized Spanish citizens of African origin is also remarkable, amounting to ca. 88,000 in 2013 and 2014. France and Italy stand out for granting citizenship mainly to people coming from Africa, whereas the biggest share of naturalized Swedish citizens over this period comes from Asia (Figure I.3).

## I.2. Sharp decline in marriage

The weakening of marriage can be considered as a very extensive phenomenon in contemporary Europe. Still, the Southern European Catholic

countries stand out for their sharp declines in marriage during the last decades. From 2000 to 2014, the number of marriages per 1,000 people fell 3.2 points in Portugal, 2 points in Spain and 1.9 points in Italy (Figure I.4). As shown in Table I.2, the three countries recorded in 2014 (latest Eurostat data) very low crude marriage rates compared with other Northern European or Central European countries (as well as with Greece).

Table I.2  
**Crude marriage rate in selected European countries (2014)**

	Crude marriage rate
Sweden	5.5
Denmark	5.0
Greece	4.9
Germany	4.8
Finland	4.5
Ireland*	4.5
Netherlands	3.9
France*	3.7
Spain	3.4
Italy	3.1
Portugal	3.0

Note: \* Data refer to 2012.

Source: Eurostat [demo\_nind].

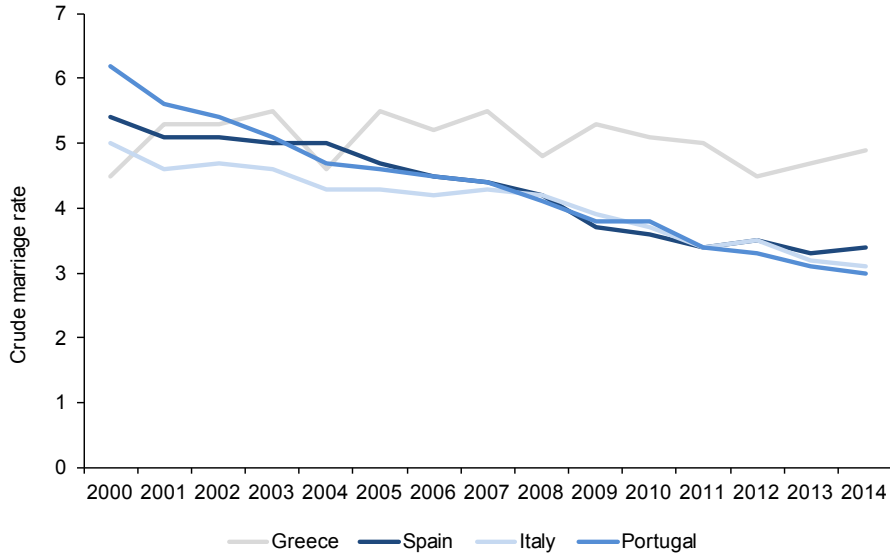
The intensity of the Spanish decrease in marriage can be unmistakably observed in Figure I.5, which contains the percentages of Spanish married males (left graph) and females (right graph) in 1976, 1996 and 2016 by age cohorts using Labour Force Survey (LFS) data.<sup>3</sup> It can be easily perceived that this decrease, which sped up in the last two decades, has been particularly significant in the age groups between 20 and 50. By contrast, the increase in marriage rates of the oldest age groups can most probably be explained by demographic reasons (growing longevity of both sexes).

<sup>2</sup> According to articles 22 and 24 of the Spanish Civil Code: People of Andorra, the Philippines, Equatorial Guinea and Portugal enjoy also these specific rights.

<sup>3</sup> All data refer to Spanish people born in Spain (thus excluding naturalized immigrants as well as Spanish people born outside Spain).

Figure I.4

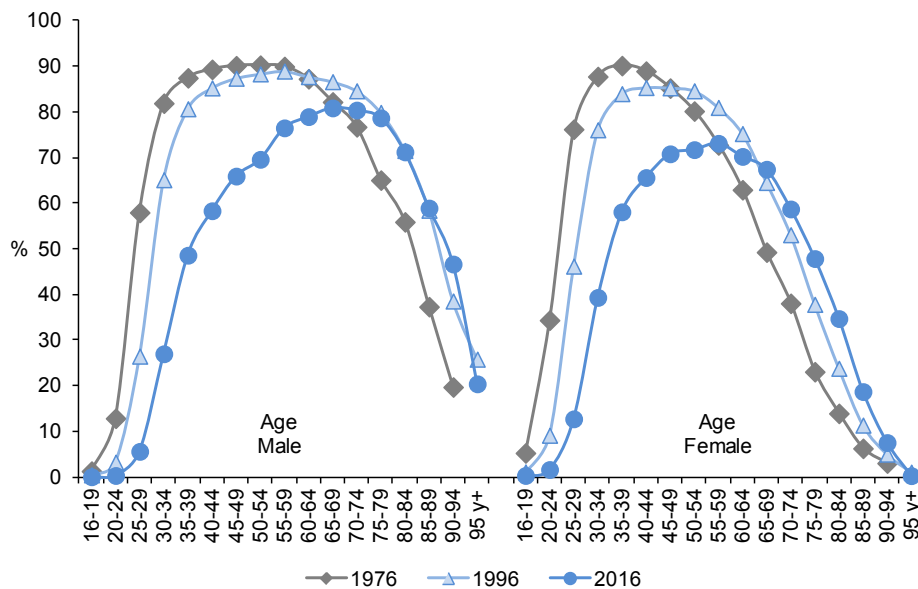
**Evolution of the crude marriage rate in Southern Europe (2000-2014)**



Source: Eurostat [demo\_nind].

Figure I.5

**Spanish married males (left graph) and females (right graph) in 1976, 1996 and 2016, by age cohorts (as percentage of population)**



Note: The graphs include solely Spaniards born in Spain, thus excluding naturalized immigrants as well as Spanish people born outside Spain.

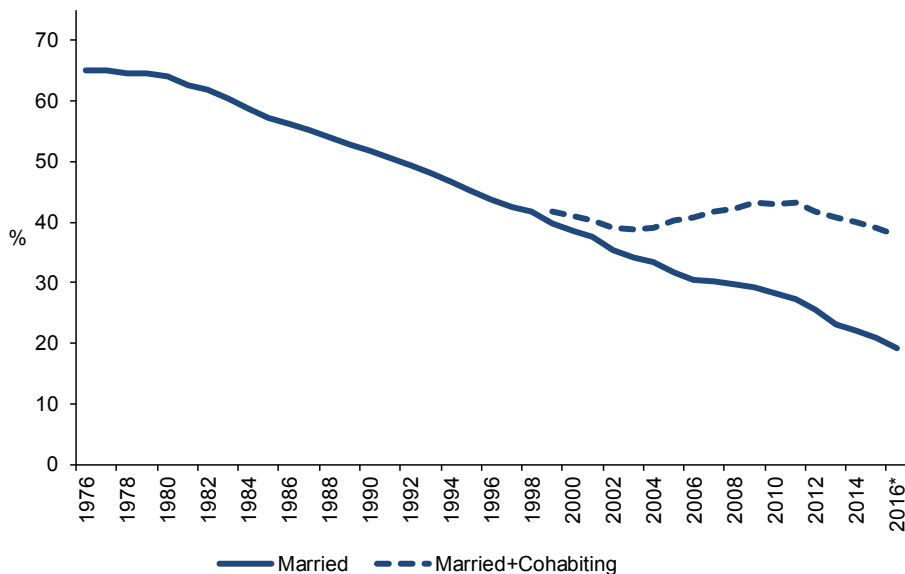
Source: Spanish LFS (www.ine.es). Data categorization and analysis by Prof. Luis Garrido Medina.

Focusing attention on females aged 20-34 (the age group in which first marriage used to occur more frequently during much of the period of observation), a virtually linear decrease can be noticed since 1980 (Figure I.6). In that year, the proportion of 20 to 34 aged married women represented ca. two thirds (64%) of all women in this age group, while in 2016, it amounts to one fifth (19%).<sup>4</sup> In purely illustrative terms, it can be posited that if this trend should continue, by 2030, no young Spanish woman would marry

(obviously, this is not a realistic hypothesis as long as the institution of marriage exists).

Certainly, the decrease in marriage has been partially counterweighted since the beginning of this century by a progressive increase in cohabitation.<sup>5</sup> Actually, if we add up the number of married and cohabiting Spanish females aged 20-34 (Figure I.6, dotted line), the percentage totals 38% in 2016. More than half of them (51%) are cohabiting.

Figure I.6  
**Percentage of married women aged 20-34 (1976-2016)**



*Note:* The graphs include solely Spaniards born in Spain, thus excluding naturalized immigrants as well as Spanish people born outside Spain.

*Source:* Spanish LFS ([www.ine.es](http://www.ine.es)). Data categorization and analysis by Prof. Luis Garrido Medina.

<sup>4</sup> 2016 data refer to the first and second quarter of the LFS.

<sup>5</sup> The Spanish LFS registers cohabitation of interviewees since 1999, just at the time when cohabitation began to gain momentum in Spain as a substitute for marriage.



## Section II. Public opinion trends

### II.1. High satisfaction with family life

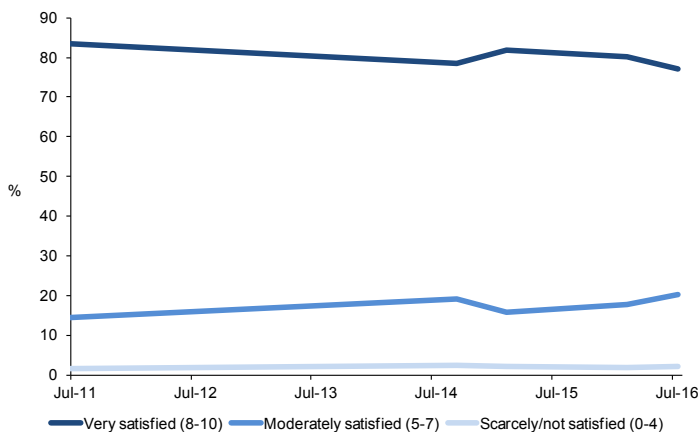
Changes in family life in Spain have been very profound during the last decades as a consequence of multiple demographic, socioeconomic, institutional and cultural factors. However, satisfaction with family life has remained very high (Figure II.1). Even though the percentage of Spanish people very satisfied with their family life reached in July 2016 its lowest

### II.2. Meager satisfaction with public services, particularly with the administration of justice

Yearly administered opinion polls in Spain consistently show disparaging public attitudes toward public services. Even before the crisis, people 18 and older who thought that the functioning of typical “welfarist” public services, like education, pension administration or social services, could be considered as very or fairly satisfactory did not reach half the population. Since 2008, the crisis contributed to the deterioration of these attitudes, which have not yet recovered (Figure II.3).

Figure II.1

#### Satisfaction with family life (2011- 2016)



Question: “To what extent are you satisfied with various aspects of your life? Use a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 means that you are “completely unsatisfied” and 10 “completely satisfied”.

Source: Centro de Investigaciones Sociológicas ([www.cis.es](http://www.cis.es)).

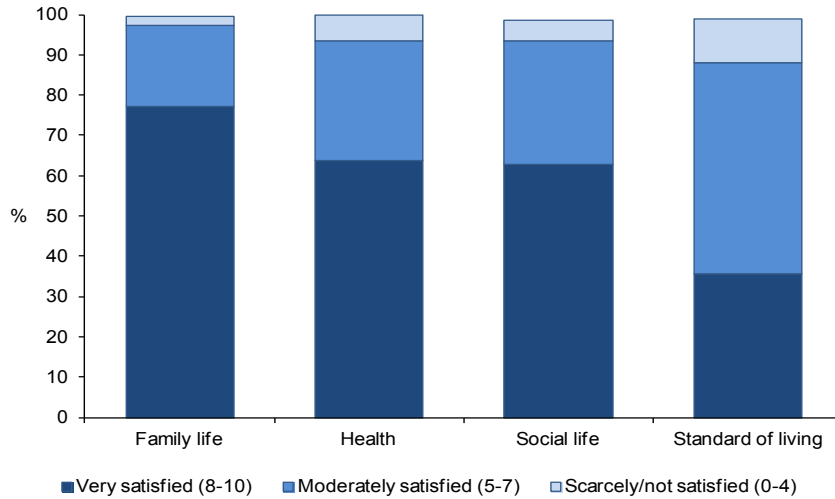
point since the existence of registered answers to this question in its literal form, more than three quarters of the population (77% of interviewees of a representative survey) evaluated satisfaction with family life between 8 and 10 on a 10 point scale. In fact, satisfaction with family life is much higher than satisfaction with other aspects of life, like social relationships, health or the standard of living (Figure II.2).

Thus, people approving of education represented in July 2016 only a third of the population 18 and older. This proportion is slightly higher than the corresponding shares for social services (30%) and pension administration (25%). But a classically provided service by liberal governments, namely the administration of justice, received, in the opinion of Spanish citizens, even stronger disapproval. If, before the crisis, around only one out of every five Spaniards



Figure II.2

**Satisfaction with family and other aspects of life (July 2016)**



Question: "To what extent are you satisfied with various aspects of your life? Use a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 means that you are 'completely unsatisfied' and 10 'completely satisfied'."

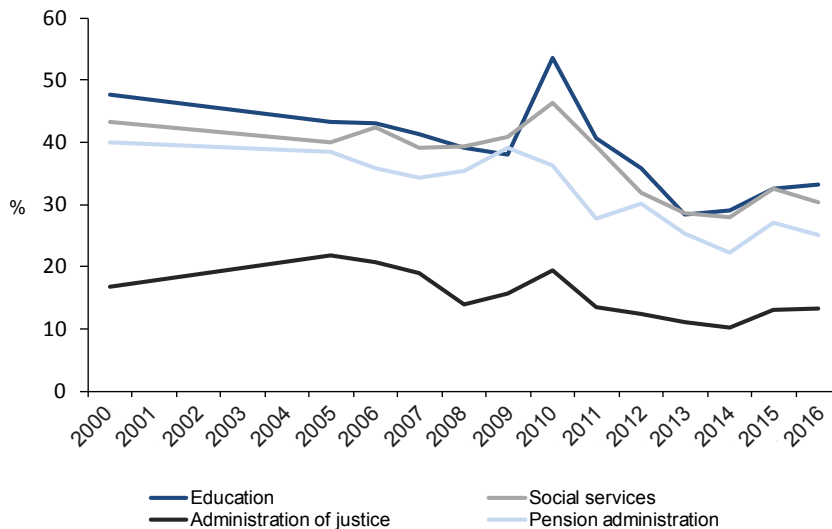
Source: Centro de Investigaciones Sociológicas (www.cis.es).

revealed satisfaction with the administration of justice, in the last five years, discontentment has soared. In July 2016, not more than 13% of the population

said that this basic guarantee of democracy and well-functioning free markets worked very or fairly satisfactorily (Figure II.3).

Figure II.3

**Satisfaction with public services (2000-2016)**



Question: "To what extent (very, fairly, little or not at all) would you say that each of the following public services works satisfactorily?"

Source: Centro de Investigaciones Sociológicas (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-27 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	80.13	85.66	51.58	27.36	13.43	399,947	
2015	46,624,382	42.43	18.39	79.94	85.41	52.42	28.03	13.22	455,679	
2016	46,524,943	42.68	18.60			52.83	28.43	13.13		
<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.

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 (%)
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	14.2	10.55
2015*	18,375.9	2.54	14.6	10.74
2016**	18,417.3	2.52		
<i>Sources</i>	LFS	LFS	EPF	EPF

Table III.2

**Households and families (continued)**

<b>Nuptiality</b>						
	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 (%)
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
2015	7.14	6.25	130,141			
<i>Sources</i>	ID INE	ID INE	CGPJ	ID INE	ID INE	ID INE

<b>Fertility</b>						
	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 (%)
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
2015		1.28	1.65			
<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.

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

\*\**LFS data refer to January-June.*

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**

<b>Educational attainment</b>				
	<b>Population 16 years and older with primary education (%)</b>	<b>Population 30-34 with primary education (%)</b>	<b>Population 16 years and older with tertiary education (%)</b>	<b>Population 30-34 with tertiary education (%)</b>
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
2016**	22.7	6.9	27.8	40.2
<i>Source</i>	<b>LFS</b>	<b>LFS</b>	<b>LFS</b>	<b>LFS</b>

**Students involved in non-compulsory education**

	<b>Pre-primary education</b>	<b>Secondary education</b>	<b>Vocational training</b>	<b>Under-graduate students</b>	<b>Post-graduate students (except doctorate)</b>
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>	<b>MECD</b>	<b>MECD</b>	<b>MECD</b>	<b>MECD</b>	<b>MECD</b>

**Education expenditure**

	<b>Public expenditure (thousands of €)</b>	<b>Public expenditure (% GDP)</b>
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
2014*	44,846,400	4.31
<i>Sources</i>	<b>MECD</b>	<b>Contabilidad Nacional del INE</b>

*LFS: Labor Force Survey.*

*MECD: Ministerio de Educación, Cultura y Deporte.*

*INE: Instituto Nacional de Estadística.*

♦ *Provisional data.*

♦ *Forecast.*

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

\*\* *LFS data refer to January-June.*

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•	763,565		5,709,043	1,039.0	936,074	928.8	2,356,359	636.5
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•	1,022,150	254,485	199,704	21,842
Sources	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-July.

Table III.5

**Social protection: Health care**

	Total expenditure (% GDP)	Public expenditure (% total expenditure)	Total expenditure per capita (\$)	Physicians per 1,000 inhabitants	Nurses per 1,000 inhabitants	Pharmaceutical expenditure (\$ per capita)	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*.

Table III.6

**Labor market**

	Employed men (thousands)	Employed women (thousands)	Unemployed men (thousands)	Unemployed women (thousands)	Unemployment rate (men)	Unemployment rate (women)	Male workers affiliated to SS (thousands)	Female workers affiliated to SS (thousands)	Foreign population affiliated to SS (thousands)
2006	11,809	8,131	801	1,040	6.4	11.3	10,955	7,641	1,822
2007	12,067	8,513	826	1,020	6.4	10.7	11,178	7,974	1,976
2008	11,805	8,665	1,320	1,276	10.1	12.8	10,884	8,121	2,052
2009	10,733	8,374	2,300	1,854	17.6	18.1	10,022	7,895	1,878
2010	10,424	8,301	2,536	2,104	19.6	20.2	9,710	7,872	1,841
2011	10,153	8,269	2,706	2,307	21.0	21.8	9,472	7,855	1,784
2012	9,608	8,025	3,131	2,680	24.6	25.0	9,034	7,705	1,693
2013	9,316	7,823	3,206	2,846	25.6	26.7	8,721	7,507	1,589
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*							9,371	8,061	1,679
<i>Sources</i>	<b>LFS</b>	<b>LFS</b>	<b>LFS</b>	<b>LFS</b>	<b>LFS</b>	<b>LFS</b>	<b>BEL</b>	<b>BEL</b>	<b>BEL</b>

SS: Social Security.

BEL: *Boletín de Estadísticas Laborales*.

LFS: *Labor Force Survey*.

\*Data refer to January - July.



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