

*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 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**

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## Section I. Spain in Europe

### I.1. Gender equality in the public realm: More progress in the public than private sector

In the last decades, women in Europe have assumed an increased role in the public realm as a consequence of several factors, among them European policies focusing on gender equality. In fact, the Strategic Engagement for Gender Equality 2016-2019, published in December 2015, defines the promotion of equality between women and men in decision-making as one of its five priority areas. However, significant gender differences prevail in parliaments as well as in high positions of public administration and big businesses.

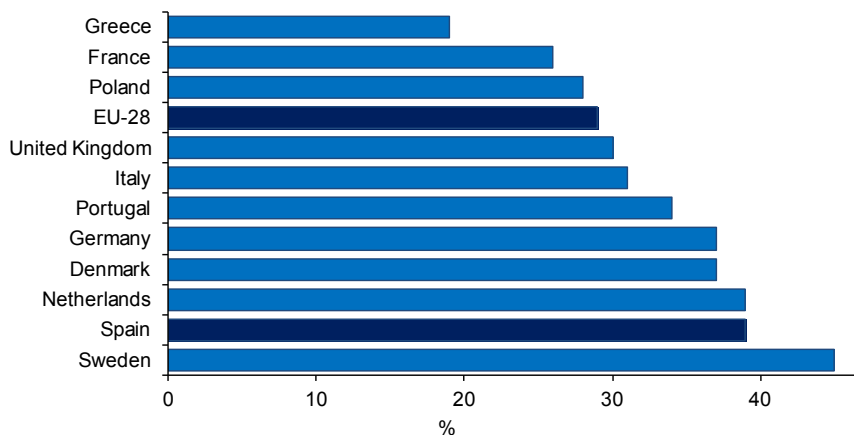
Currently (third quarter of 2016), around three out of ten members of national parliaments (single/lower house) of European Union (28) countries are

women. International variations are still noteworthy. Thus, in Greece, female members of parliament represent only one fifth, and in France one fourth. In contrast, in Spain and the Netherlands, nearly 40% of MPs are women (moreover, in both countries women preside over the parliament). With nearly half of all parliamentary seats (45%) belonging to women, Sweden reports the highest proportion of female representation in European parliaments (Figure I.1).

Female participation at the highest level of administrative (non-political) ministerial positions does not follow a similar pattern. Greece (45%), Portugal (44%) and Sweden (43%) display comparatively high percentages in “level I” female administrators (2015 data).<sup>1</sup> Spain’s position (35%) is in line with the EU (28) average (34%), with a higher percentage than Italy (31%), France (27%), the Netherlands (24%), the United Kingdom (23%) or Germany (18%) (Figure I.2).

The situation appears less promising when it comes to female membership in decision-making

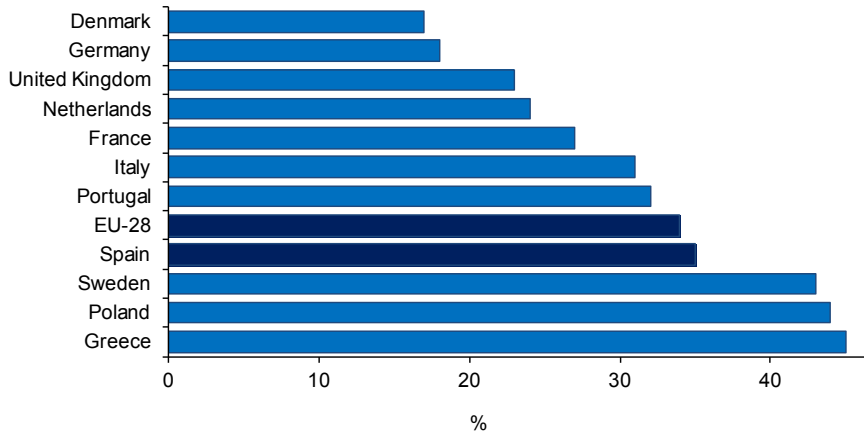
Figure I.1  
**Female participation in national parliaments (2016)**



Source: Eurostat (Database ‘Women and men in decision-making’).

<sup>1</sup> Level I administrators are those who occupy the highest level of administrative (non-political) positions within each ministry.

Figure I.2

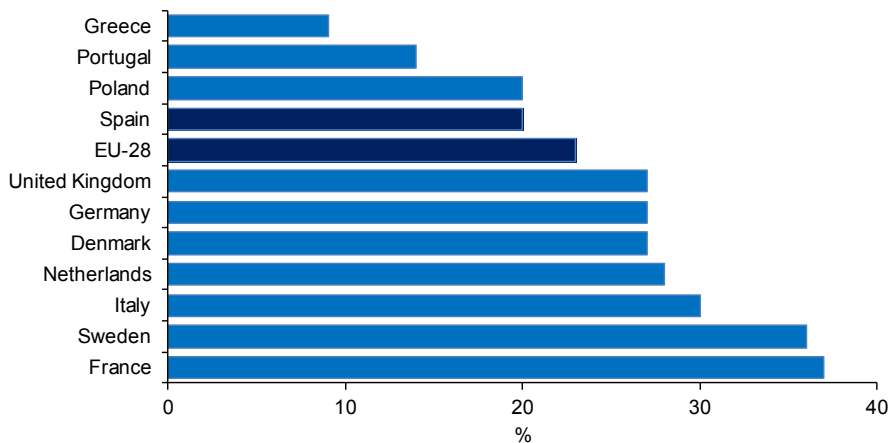
**Female participation in highest level positions of national administrations (2015)**

Source: Eurostat (Database 'Women and men in decision-making').

bodies of the largest publicly listed companies. In the first half of 2016, women held only 20% of board positions in those listed Spanish companies, well below the corresponding percentages for France (37%), Sweden (36%) and Italy (30%), but also for the Netherlands (28%), Germany, Denmark and the United Kingdom (27% in the three countries).

True, the percentage of Spanish chairwomen (9%) in the corresponding boards is somewhat higher than the European average (7%), but in any case, the existing data unmistakably show that women in Spain and Europe are strongly underrepresented in the highest corporate decision-making bodies (Figure I.3).

Figure I.3

**Female participation in boards of largest publicly listed companies (2016)**

Source: Eurostat (Database 'Women and men in decision-making').

## I.2. The effects of the crisis: University graduates' delayed access to the labor market

Graduating from university during a period of economic recession delays incorporation into the labor market. The decrease in employment rates of young recent graduates during the crisis years supports this argument. In 2007, 86% of those people aged 20 to 34 who lived in Spain and had

completed university studies in the previous three years were employed. This percentage outstripped by two points the EU (28) average. In 2013, the Spanish percentage had fallen to 64%, and was 15 points lower than the European average. The intensity of the fall was similar for men and women (Table I.1).

Greece's decrease in the employment rate of young recent graduates aged 20 to 34 was stronger than Spain's during the crisis; in contrast, Portugal, Italy and Ireland exhibited

Table I.1

**Employment rates of tertiary education graduates aged 20-34 (not in education and training) who completed their highest level of education in the previous three years (Spain and EU-28 average)**

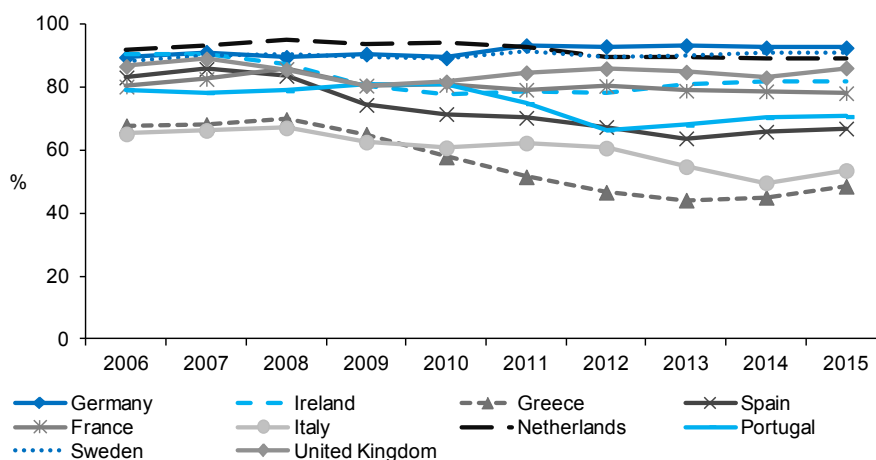
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
EU-28	84	84	81	80	80	80	79	78	80
Spain (total)	86	84	74	71	70	67	64	66	67
Spain (females)	83	84	72	71	70	69	63	67	66
Spain (males)	89	83	77	72	71	66	65	65	67

Note: The category "tertiary education graduates" comprises ISCED levels 5-8.

Source: Eurostat (edat\_ifse\_24).

Figure I.4

**Employment rates of tertiary education graduates aged 20-34 (not in education and training) who completed their highest level of education in the previous three years (selected EU countries)**

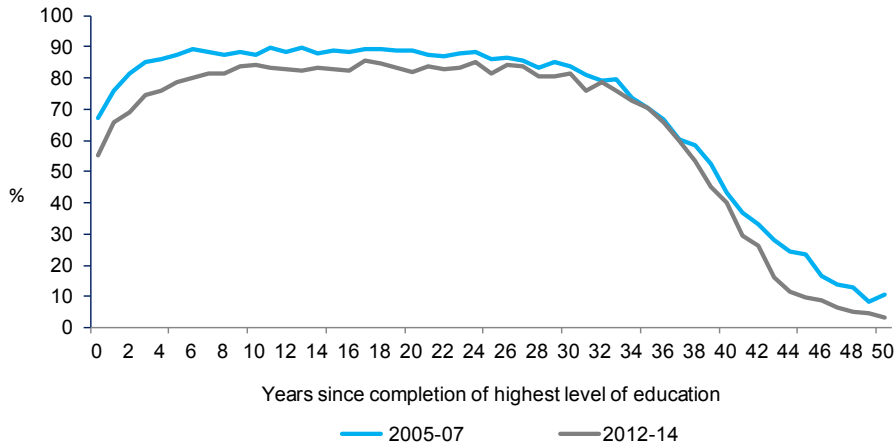


Note: The category "tertiary education graduates" comprises ISCED levels 5-8.

Source: Eurostat (edat\_ifse\_24).

Figure I.5

### Employment rates of university graduates by years since completion of highest level of education (Spain, 2005-2007 and 2012-2014)



Note: The category “higher vocational “ corresponds to the Spanish “formación profesional superior” (ISCED 5). The category “university” includes graduate, postgraduate and doctoral studies (ISCED 6, 7 and 8).

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

more moderate declines between 2007 and 2013 (13 points, 10 points and 8 points, respectively). In some countries less profoundly or persistently affected by the crisis, like France, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands, the percentages changed only slightly between these years, whereas those nations which better resisted the crisis (first and foremost, Germany and Sweden) saw an increase in the employment rates of recent graduates. Thus, graduation in these countries opened up entry into the labor market more rapidly than before the crisis (Figure I.4).

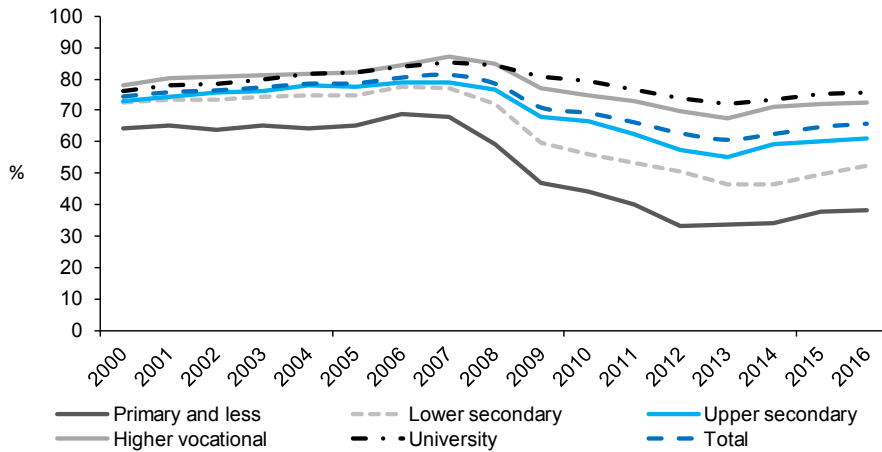
In Spain, the delay in labor market integration of university graduates can be clearly observed when comparing the employment rates during the final period of economic expansion (2005-2007) and the final period of the economic recession (2012-2014), in terms of years since completion of highest level of education. During the first period (2005-2007), university graduates achieved stable labor participation rates (around 89%) six years after graduating; during the second period (2012-2014), they needed eleven years to

achieve stable labor participation rates (around 84%). Once they reached this participation level, the employment rates kept being moderately lower during the crisis (2012-2014) (Figure I.5).

The positive impact of university studies in terms of employment is evident: young university graduates fare significantly better than less educated young people. Their employment rates (together with those who completed higher vocational education) have not only been persistently higher throughout this century, but also more stable (Figure I.6).

Figure I.6

**Employment rates of people aged 20-34 (not in education and training) who completed their highest level of education since less than ten years by educational level (Spain, 2000-2016)**



Note: The category “higher vocational “ corresponds to the Spanish “formación profesional superior” (ISCED 5). The category “university” includes graduate, postgraduate and doctoral studies (ISCED 6, 7 and 8).

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



## Section II. Public opinion trends

### II.1. Increasing importance of politics in life

Politics has reinforced its presence in the life of Spaniards. When asked to evaluate the importance of different elements in their lives, at the beginning of this century, religion was considered more important than politics by the Spanish population (5.3 to 3.7 on a ten-point scale). Yet the distance between both diminished in the following years as a consequence of the devaluation of religion and the revaluation of

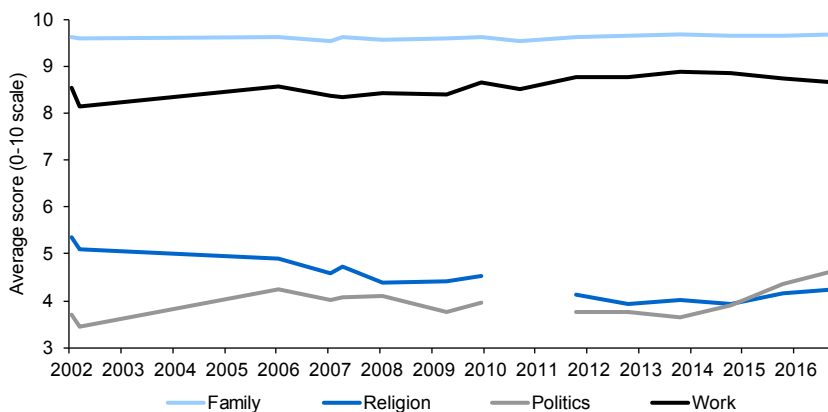
cultural change; second, even if the perceived importance of politics is higher than that of religion, both of them are less significant to the Spanish population than other dimensions of life, like family and work (Figure II.1).

### II.2. Relatively high interest in environmental issues, but moderate commitment

Mass media are an important, even if not uncontested, source of knowledge and attitudes about the environment. Thus, interest in news about environmental issues may indicate concern for the environment. According to opinion polls conducted by the Centro de

Figure II.1

#### Perceived importance of politics, religion, work and family in life (2002- 2016)



Question: "Could you tell me how much importance do the following aspects have in your life? I have here a card with a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 means 'not important at all' and 10 'very important'. Where would you place yourself?". Source: Centro de Investigaciones Sociológicas ([www.cis.es](http://www.cis.es)).

politics. At the end of 2014, politics was already perceived as more important than religion. Since then, politics has seemingly increased its perceived importance compared to religion. In October 2016, the average score of politics was 4.64, while religion scored 4.25.

These data suggest a relevant cultural change in Spanish society, but two caveats have to be taken into consideration: First, it is probably too early to assess the consistency of such a significant

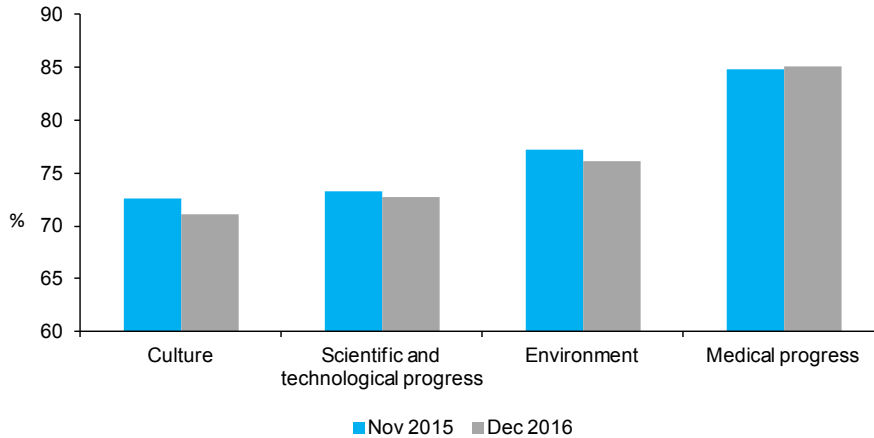
Investigaciones Sociológicas (CIS), around seven out of every ten Spaniards declare nowadays a high or fairly high interest in mass media coverage of environmental issues. These issues seem to attract more public attention than cultural topics or questions related to scientific and technological progress, but less than medical advances (Figure II.2).

However, for nearly half of the population, the commitment to environmental protection depends



Figure II.2

**Interest in news about the environment (2015 and 2016)**



*Question:* “Every day we receive a great amount of news about very diverse issues. I would like you to tell me, for each of the issues I am going to read you, if you are very interested, fairly interested, scarcely interested or not at all interested”.

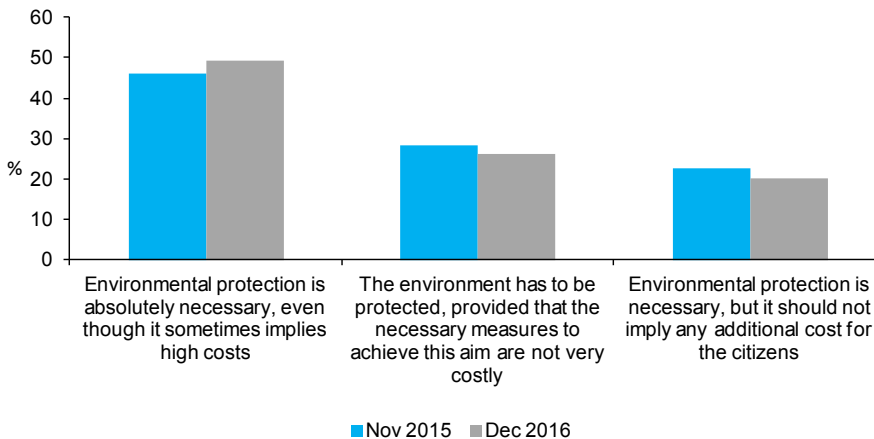
*Source:* Centro de Investigaciones Sociológicas ([www.cis.es](http://www.cis.es)).

on the economic costs it implies. While one fourth considers that the necessary measures to achieve environmental protection should not be very costly, a fifth thinks that environmental protection should

not imply any additional cost for citizens. Spaniards who deem environmental protection as an absolute necessity represent no more than half the population (49%) (Figure II.3)

Figure II.3

**Attitudes toward the priority of environmental protection (2015 and 2016)**



*Question:* “Now I would like to know which of the following three sentences displays more precisely your opinion.”

*Source:* Centro de Investigaciones Sociológicas ([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-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		
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 (%)
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		
Sources	LFS	LFS	EPF	EPF

Table III.2

**Households and families (continued)**

<b>Nuptiality</b>						
	<b>Marriage rate (Spanish)</b>	<b>Marriage rate (foreign population)</b>	<b>Separations and divorces</b>	<b>Mean age at first marriage (men)</b>	<b>Mean age at first marriage (women)</b>	<b>Same sex marriages (%)</b>
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>	<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 at first child (women)</b>	<b>Total fertility rate (Spanish women)</b>	<b>Total fertility rate (foreign women)</b>	<b>Births to single mothers (%)</b>	<b>Abortion rate</b>	<b>Abortion by Spanish-born women (%)</b>
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	30.7	1.28	1.65			
<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: *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

**Labor market**

	Employed men (thousands)	Employed women (thousands)	Unempl. men (thousands)	Unempl. 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>	LFS	LFS	LFS	LFS	LFS	LFS	BEL	BEL	BEL

SS: Social Security.

BEL: Boletín de Estadísticas Laborales.

LFS: Labor Force Survey.

\*Data refer to January - July.

Table III.4

**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 (%)
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**	22.5	6.8	28.0	40.0
<i>Source</i>	LFS	LFS	LFS	LFS

Table III.4

**Education (continued)****Students involved in non-compulsory education**

	Pre-primary education	Secondary education	Vocational training	Under-graduate students	Post-graduate students (except doctorate)
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)
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>	MECD	Contabilidad Nacional del INE

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-September.

Table III.5

**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	723	859,780	731	2,196,934	477
2007	780,205		4,863,256	760	888,776	761	2,225,501	498
2008	1,100,879		4,936,839	814	906,835	801	2,249,904	529
2009	1,624,792		5,038,861	854	920,863	831	2,270,283	554
2010	1,471,826		5,140,554	884	933,730	850	2,290,090	572
2011	1,328,020		5,246,241	915	938,491	869	2,309,332	586
2012	1,381,261		5,330,195	946	943,296	887	2,322,938	601
2013	1,310,915		5,451,465	979	935,220	908	2,336,240	618
2014	1,059,799		5,558,964	1,000	929,484	916	2,348,388	624
2015	838,392		5,641,908	1,021	931,668	923	2,353,257	631
2016•	762,773		5,722,385	1,041	937,397	929	2,357,652	637
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•	1,000,996	254,631	199,724	21,553
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-October.

Table III.6

**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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