

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, labor market, education, health and welfare benefits and services.

Section I. Spain in Europe

I.1. The decline of female inactivity

I.2. Scarce knowledge of foreign languages: increasing feelings of disadvantage

Section II. Public opinion trends

- Moderate decrease in optimism for 2017

Section III. Follow-up social data

- Population, households and families, labor market, education and social protection

Section I. Spain in Europe

I.1. The decline of female inactivity

Female activity displays great diversity across Europe, due to diverse labor markets, welfare states and family conditions and arrangements. In 2016, Spain was among the European countries with the lowest percentages of economically inactive women aged 25 to 49 years (16%), after Portugal and Sweden (11%), Austria (14%) and Denmark (16%). At the other extreme, Italy, Romania and Ireland showed the highest of percentages (between 25% and 33%) (Figure I.1).

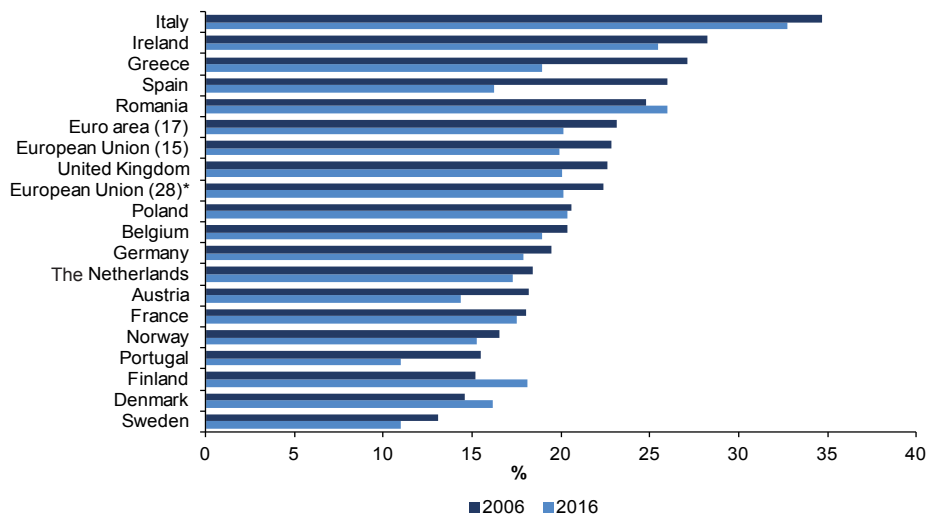
During the last decade, the proportion of women 25 to 49 years of age not employed or unemployed fell in all European labor markets (with the exception of Finland and Denmark). Thus, the average inactivity rate in the EU-28 dropped from 22% in

2006 to 20% in 2016. Within this general pattern, Spain stands out for the intense change in female labor participation. In 2006, Spain showed the fourth highest inactivity rate of women aged 25 to 49 (26%) of all EU-28 countries, after Italy (35%), Ireland (28%) and Greece (27%). In 2016, female inactivity in this age group plummeted to 16% (male inactivity in the same age group amounted to 7%). Greece has also rapidly converged towards low female inactivity rates during the last decade, but neither Italy nor Ireland have managed to reduce the number of economically inactive women in such an impressive way.

With the exception of Greek women, inactive females in Southern Europe have, in general, low education levels (Figure I.2). Nearly half of inactive Spanish women aged 25 to 49 have completed at most lower secondary education. This correlation between inactivity and education level is also paramount in Portugal and Italy, where 61% and 40% of inactive women, respectively, have not achieved higher secondary education (UE-28 average: 36%).

Figure I.1

Female inactivity rates by country (2006 and 2016, third quarters)

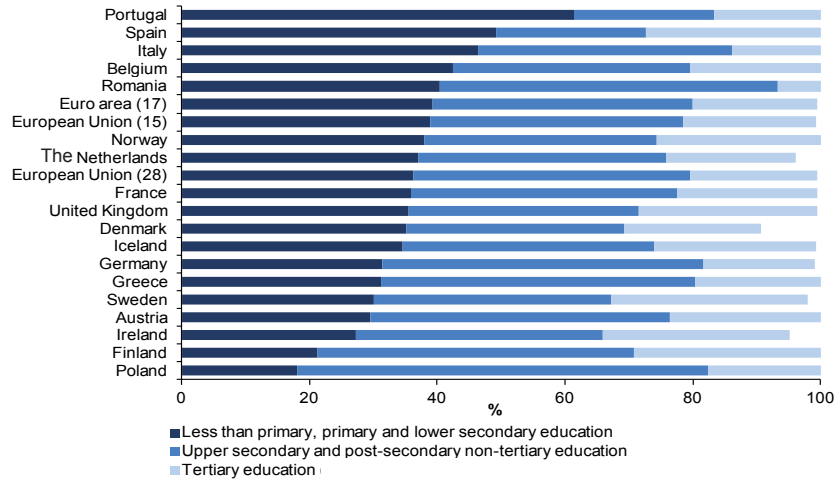


Note: *Data from the second quarter.

Source: LFS, Eurostat.

Figure I.2

Female inactivity rates by education level (EU, 2016)



Source: LFS, Eurostat.

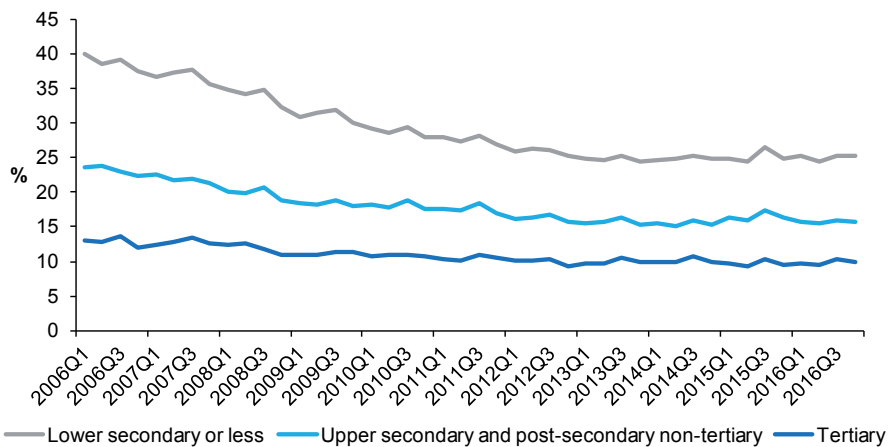
Certainly, Spain’s female labor participation during the last decades has grown in line with increasing education levels achieved by women. Nonetheless, lower educated women have also made an important contribution to the increase of female labour force participation.

in all education levels, the drop has been more significant among those women with lower education. As shown in Figure I.3, the proportion of economically inactive women (25-49) with lower education fell remarkably between 2006 and 2016 (from 40% to 25%), although it is 15 percentage points higher than the inactivity rate of women with tertiary education (10%).

Labor Force Survey (LFS) data show that while female inactivity in Spain has decreased

Figure I.3

Female inactivity rates by education level (Spain, 2006-2016)



Source: Spanish LFS (Encuesta de Población Activa).

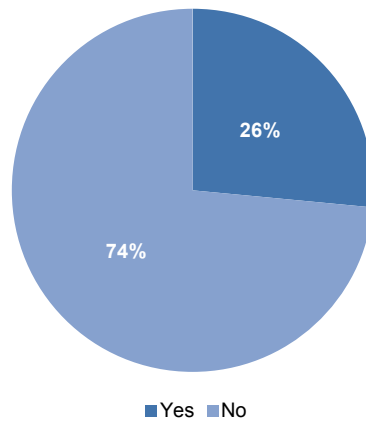
1.2. Scarce knowledge of foreign languages: Increasing feelings of disadvantage

Spanish society presents a scarce knowledge of foreign languages. According to a survey administered by Funcas in the spring of 2016, only 26.5% of people residing in Spain admit speaking fluently one of the languages spoken in European countries other than Spain (Figure I.4). Although this proportion is higher in younger

disadvantaged because of not speaking foreign languages has increased in Spain between 2010 and 2016. This tendency is evident in all working age groups, particularly among people aged 25 to 34.

Recently released Eurostat data show that, like in virtually all European countries, the totality of pupils at the lower secondary school level living in Spain learned a foreign language in 2015, more specifically, English. However, Spain stands out for its comparatively low percentage of pupils learning two or more languages. Less

Figure I.4
Mastering of foreign languages (Spain, 2016)



Question: “Do you speak fluently any of the languages people speak in other European countries?”.

Source: Funcas (survey ASP 16.059, design of questionnaire and field work supervision by V. Pérez-Díaz and J.C. Rodríguez).

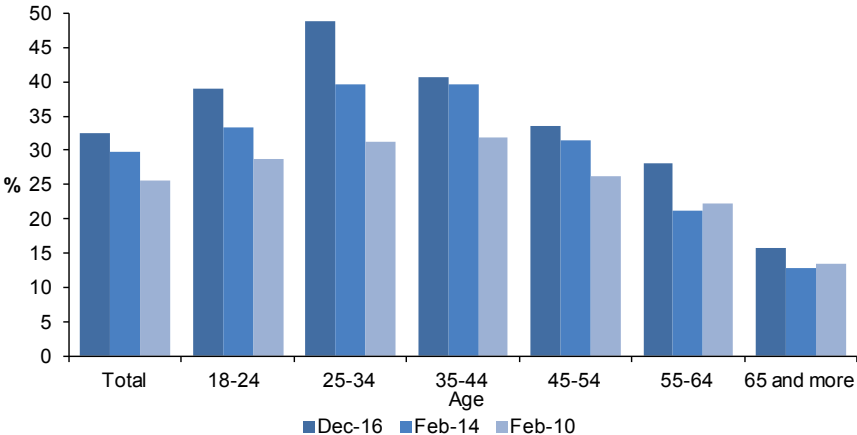
cohorts (40.5% among people aged 18 to 29), the data confirm the need to effectively improve the learning of foreign languages in Spain.

This lack of linguistic competence can be seen as a cultural weakness inasmuch as foreign language knowledge tends to incentivize the interest for other countries, their people and their history. Furthermore, not speaking foreign languages implies disadvantages in education and work. As Figure I.5 shows, the feeling of being

than half of boys and girls at lower secondary school (45.8%) learned in 2015 a second foreign language (French being the most common), while the corresponding percentages in other South European countries (Italy, Greece and Portugal), as well as in Scandinavia (Finland, Denmark and Sweden) and Eastern Europe (the Baltics, Poland, Slovakia and Romania) are significantly higher (Figure I.6).

Figure I.5

Feeling disadvantaged because of not speaking foreign languages (Spain, 2010-2016)

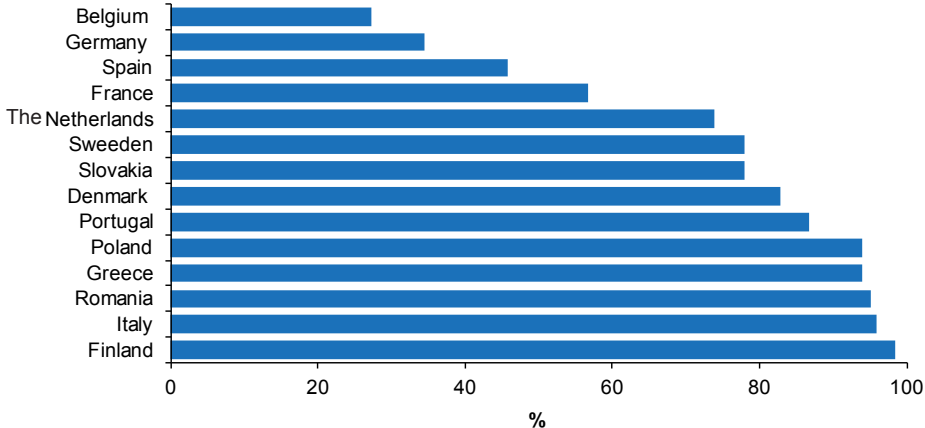


Question: “Throughout your working life or your studies, ¿have you felt at some moment disadvantaged or in a situation of inequality because of not speaking foreign languages?”

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

Exhibit I.6

Second foreign language learning at lower secondary school level (selected European countries, 2015)



Source: Eurostat (Newsrelease 33/2017).

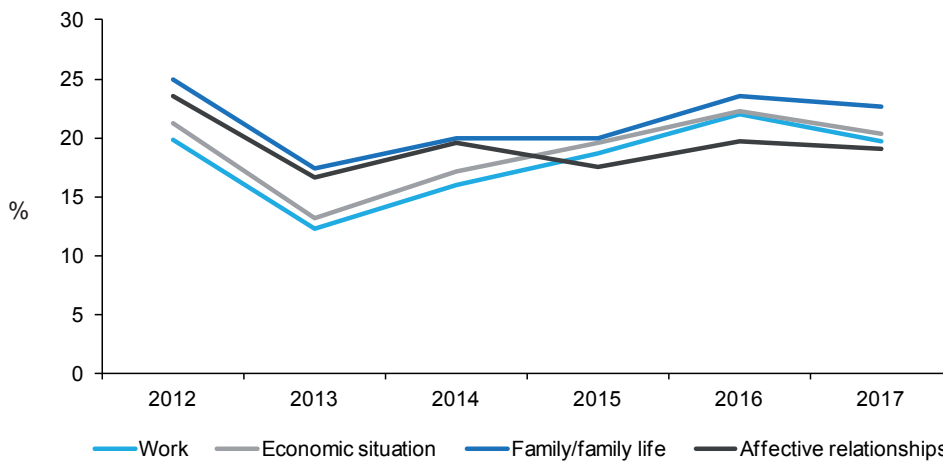
Section II. Public opinion trends

Moderate decrease in optimism for 2017

Different opinion indicators show a recovery in optimism in Spanish society since 2014. However, the pace of this recovery seems to be sluggish and fragile. Asked in January 2017 about how the work and economic situation is going to be this year compared to the previous one, less Spaniards manifest optimism than in January 2016. Around 20% think that work and the economy will improve; in January 2016 the corresponding percentage was two points higher.

When looking at the evolution of these perceptions since 2012, it is evident that optimism towards work, the economic situation and family runs parallel in time (Figure II.1). Most probably, optimism towards work and the economic situation pushes up optimism towards family life. In contrast, optimism about affective relations is more stable and seemingly less dependent on the economic cycle. The evolution of this attitude seems to be highly dependent on demographics. Since optimism towards affective relations is concentrated in young people and it tends to decrease with age, population's ageing may be countering the rise of this feeling in society.

Figure II.1
Optimism towards work, the economic situation, family and affective relations (2012-2017)



Question: "And do you think that in 2017 things will get better, the same or worse than in 2016 with respect to...?".
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
2008	46,157,822	40.81	16.54	78.23	84.34	47.47	24.49	13.10	726,009	28.40
2010	47,021,031	41.12	16.87	79.06	85.05	48.63	25.03	14.05	464,443	35.54
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	399,947	37.98
2015	46,624,382	42.43	18.39			52.42	28.03	13.22	455,679	36.43
2016	46,557,008	42.67	18.60			52.86	28.42	13.15		
<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 (%)
2006	15,856.2	2.76	11.6	10.27
2008	16,742.0	2.71	12.0	10.24
2010	17,173.9	2.67	12.8	9.93
2012	17,434.4	2.63	13.7	9.91
2014*	18,328.9	2.51	14.2	10.55
2015	18,375.9	2.54	14.6	10.74
2016	18,444.2	2.52		
<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	34.1	30.0	2.08
2008	8.51	8.35	131,060	34.6	31.5	1.62
2010	7.17	7.89	127,682	35.7	32.5	1.87
2012	7.17	6.74	127,160	36.3	33.3	2.04
2014	6.95	6.46	133,643	36.9	33.9	2.06
2015	7,25	6,50	130,141	37.2	34.3	2.26
Sources	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	
2008	29.3	1.36	1.83	33.2	11.8	55.6
2010	29.8	1.30	1.68	35.5	11.5	58.3
2012	30.3	1.27	1.56	39.0	12.0	61.5
2014	30.6	1.27	1.62	42.5	10.5	63.3
2015	30.7	1.28	1.66	44.4	10.4	65.3
Sources	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.*

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
2008	32.1	9.2	16.1	26.9
2010	30.6	8.6	17.0	27.7
2012	28.5	7.5	17.8	26.6
2014*	24.4	6.1	27.2	42.3
2015	23.3	6.6	27.5	40.9
2016	22.4	6.6	28.1	40.7
<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
2008	1,763,019	669,021	472,604	1,377,228	49,799
2010	1,872,829	720,937	555,580	1,445,392	100,963
2012	1,912,324	692,098	617,686	1,450,036	111,087
2014	1,836,606	690,228	651,938	1,361,340	139,844
2015	1,798,213♦	697,699♦	658,301♦	1,329,109	166,908
<i>Source</i>	MECD	MECD	MECD	MECD	MECD

Education expenditure

	Public expenditure (thousands of €)	Public expenditure (% GDP)
2006	42,512,586	4.31
2008	51,716,008	4.63
2010	53,099,329	4.91
2012	46,476,414	4.46
2014	44,846,415	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.

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	
2008	1,100,879	4,936,839	814.5	906,835	801.5	2,249,904	529.0	
2010	1,471,826	5,140,554	884.0	933,730	849.9	2,290,090	571.7	
2012	1,381,261	5,330,195	946.3	943,296	887.3	2,322,938	601.5	
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	931,668	923.3	2,353,257	630.6	
2016	763,697	5,731,952	1,043	938,344	929.7	2,364,388	637.9	
2017•	797,060	5,784,322	1,055	943,153	934.6	2,358,666	642.9	
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
2008	646,186	265,314	199,410	63,626
2010	1,445,228	257,136	196,159	49,535
2012	1,327,027	251,549	194,876	36,310
2014	1,221,390	252,328	197,303	26,842
2015	1,102,529	253,838	198,891	23,643
2016	997,192	254,741	199,762	21,350
2017•	982,958			
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.

Table III. 5

Social protection: Health care

Expenditure

	Total expenditure (% GDP)	Public expenditure (% total expenditure)	Total expenditure per capita (\$)	Physicians per 1,000 inhabitants
2006	7.76	5.62	1,734	1,265
2008	8.29	6.10	1,976	1,464
2010	9.01	6.74	1,995	1,493
2012	9.09	6.54	1,909	1,370
2014	9.08	6.34	1,915	1,332
<i>Sources</i>	OECD	OECD	INCLASNS	INCLASNS

Ressources

	Specialized care physicians per 1,000 inhabitants	Primary care physicians per 1,000 people assigned	Specialized care nurses per 1,000 inhabitants	Primary care nurses per 1,000 people assigned	Places in day hospitals per 1,000 inhabitants
2006	1.6	0.7	2.8	0.6	0.2
2008	1.8	0.8	3.0	0.6	0.2
2010	1.8	0.8	3.2	0.6	0.4
2012	1.8	0.8	3.1	0.6	0.4
2014	1.8	0.8	3.1	0.7	0.4
<i>Sources</i>	INCLASNS	INCLASNS	INCLASNS	INCLASNS	INCLASNS

Satisfaction

Patients on hold

	With the health system	With medical history and tracing by family doctor or pediatrician	Non-urgent surgical procedures per 1,000 inhabitants	Specialized inquiries per 1,000 rooms
2006	5.6	7.0	9.4	35.4
2008	6.4	7.0	9.2	37.5
2010	6.6	7.3	9.8	33.0
2012	6.6	7.5	11.8	35.9
2014	6.3	7.5	11.4	39.4
2015	6.4		12.2	43.4
<i>Sources</i>	INCLASNS	INCLASNS	INCLASNS	INCLASNS

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)	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
2008	11,805	8,665	1,320	1,276	10.1	12.8	10,884	8,121	2,052
2010	10,424	8,301	2,536	2,104	19.6	20.2	9,710	7,872	1,841
2012	9,608	8,025	3,131	2,680	24.6	25.0	9,034	7,705	1,693
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	10,001	8,341	2,213	2,268	18.1	21.4	9,421	8,097	1,688
2017*							9,462	8,142	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.

Orders and information:

Funcas
Caballero de Gracia, 28
28013 Madrid (Spain)
Phone: +34 91 596 57 18
Fax: +34 91 596 57 96
publica@funcas.es
www.funcas.es

