Focus on Spanish Society

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

Section I.
Spain in Europe

## I.1. Declining financial burden of unemployment benefits

According to the latest published data by Eurostat, unemployment benefits in Spain represented, in 2014, the second highest percentage in terms of GDP (2.7%) in the EU (at par with Ireland). Belgium ranked first, with 3.4%, although its unemployment rate in 2014 (8.5%) was around one third of Spain's (24.5%) (Figure I.1). The Belgian welfare state stands out because it provides unemployment benefits with high net replacement rates, which furthermore have no time limitations. Since Belgium has not suffered significant unemployment increases during the crisis years, the institutional features of its protection system explain the remarkable stability of unemployment benefits since 2007, around 3.5% of GDP (Figure I.2).

On the contrary, Ireland and Spain have witnessed, as of 2008, important rises in unemployment benefits expenditure in terms of GDP as a consequence of increasing unemployment (Ireland more than doubled its unemployment rate from 2007 [4.7%] to 2012 [11.3%], while Spain nearly tripled it [from 8.2% to 24.5%]). Both countries have curbed this tendency and begun to reduce outlays in recent years (Ireland since 2011, and Spain since 2012) (Figure I.2).[1]

Though in Spain unemployment benefits as a percentage of total social benefits have in 2014 virtually recovered the level prior to the Great Recession (ca. 10-11%), Ireland still devoted in that year more welfare resources to unemployment protection than in the pre-crisis years (8.5% in 2007 and 13.8% in 2014) (Figure I.3). Data suggest that Ireland's welfare state has made a more sustained effort to protect their unemployed citizens than many European countries with similar or even higher unemployment rates, in particular those of South Europe.

Figure I.1

Unemployment rate and unemployment benefits as a percentage of GDP (2014)
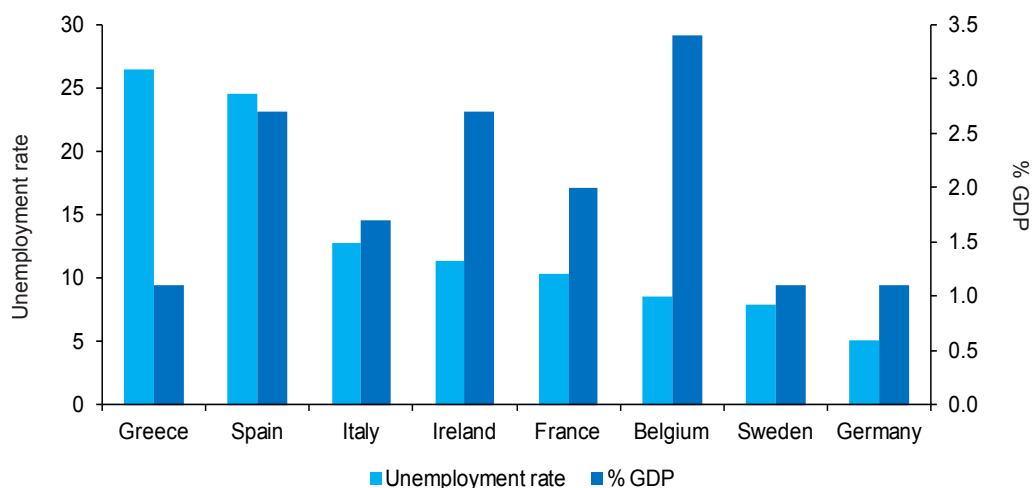
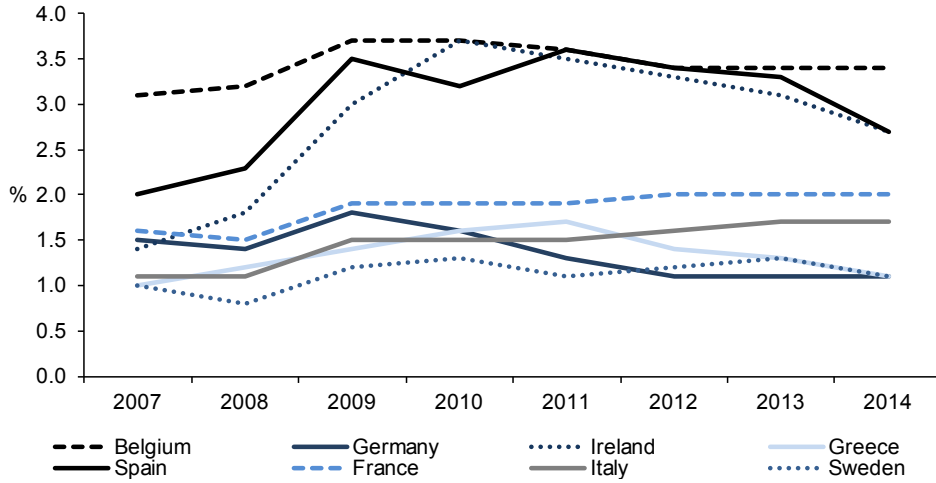*Source:* Eurostat.

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[1] For Spanish data on unemployment benefits see also the section "Follow-up social data" (Table III.4).
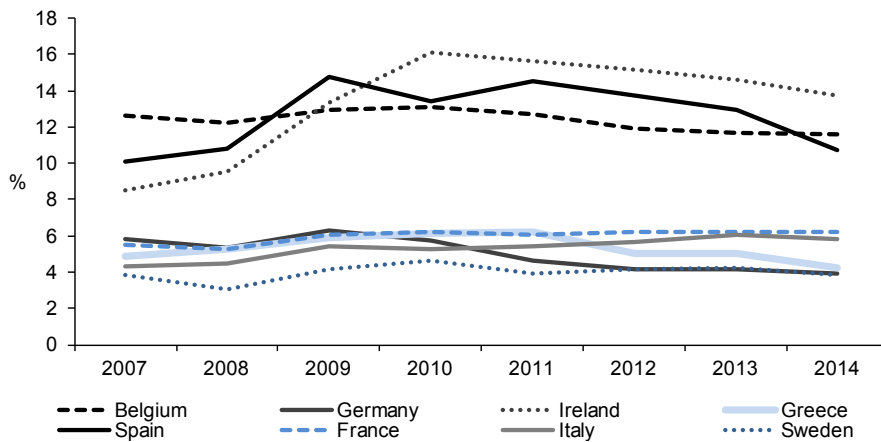
Section I. Spain in Europe

Figure I.2
Unemployment benefits as a percentage of GDP (2007-2014)

Source: Eurostat.

Figure I.3
Unemployment benefits as a percentage of total social benefits (2007-2014)

Source: Eurostat.

I.2. Decrease in minors living in workless households

The percentage of children living in households where no adults work varies notably across the European Union (EU -15), oscillating in 2016 between 5.6% in Sweden and 13.4% in Ireland (Figure I.4). The size of these percentages does not provide an accurate approach to child poverty since this phenomenon also depends on the level of public benefits received by families affected by unemployment. Still, these percentages provide an idea about the proportion of children and teenagers who live in families under specific worrisome conditions, and eventually, stress.

Spain is one of the countries which has managed to significantly reduce, since 2013, the percentage of minors in households where no adults work (more than three percentage points). However, with 10.9% in 2016, it still doubled the percentage of 2007 (Figure I.5).

It is also worth noting that although Spain (together with Italy and Greece) shows one of the highest percentages of population aged 18 to 59 living in jobless households, the percentage of minors in those households was in 2016 lower than in countries less affected by unemployment, like Ireland, Belgium, France and the United Kingdom (Figure I.6). In these four countries, the percentage of people under 18 who live in households where no adults are employed is higher than the corresponding percentage for adults (18-59 years). The opposite applies to Spain, Italy and Greece. Hence, Southern European families with children under 18 seem to be less affected by absolute unemployment than other European families.

In fact, the relationship between employment and children is complex. Spanish Labour Force Survey data show a positive correlation between those variables among males. More than four out of five men aged 25 to 49 who have one or two children were in 2016 employed; among men of the same age group without children, the employment rate was ca. 10 percentage points lower. Yet in the case of women, this correlation is negative (Figure I.7).

Figure I.4

Percentage of children (0-17 years) living in jobless households (2016)
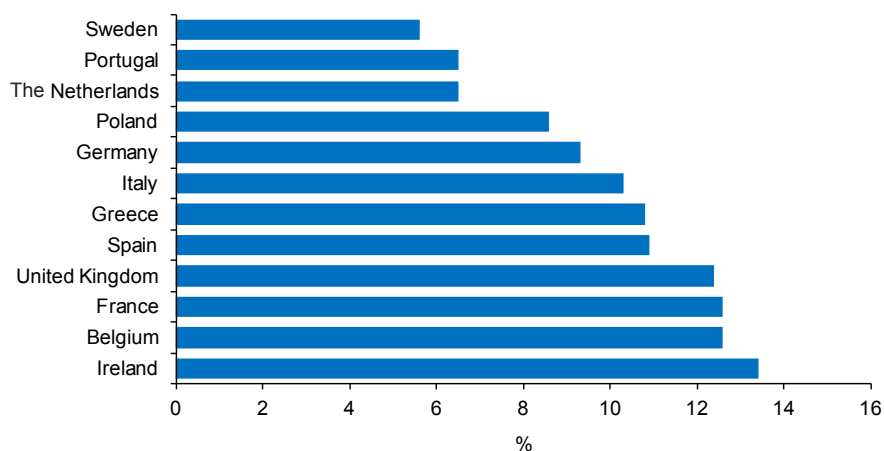
Source: Eurostat.

Figure I.5

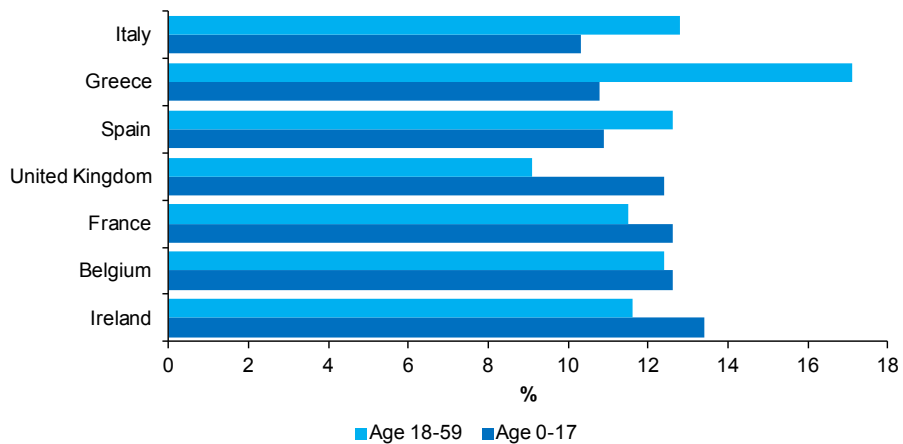**Percentage of children (0-17) living in jobless households (2007-2016)**
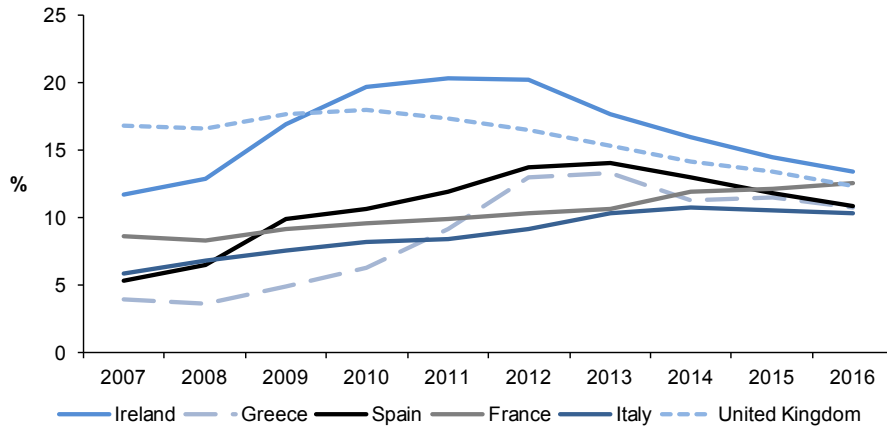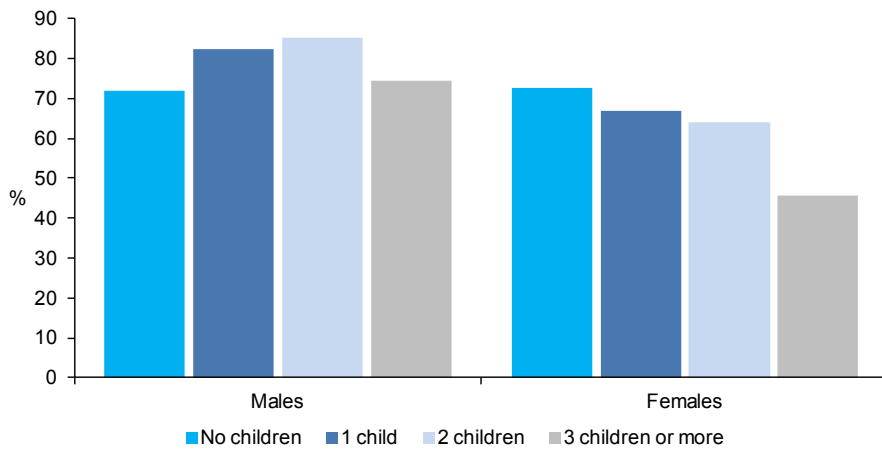

Source: Eurostat.

Figure I.6

Children (0-17 years) and adults (18-59 years) living in jobless households (2016)

Source: Eurostat.

Figure I.7

Employment rates of males and females (25-49 years) with and without children (Spain, 2016)

Source: Spanish Labour Force Survey.

Section II.
Public opinion trends

> ## Pervasive negative perceptions about the political and economic situation

Spanish political life has been fraught with turmoil during the last year. The December 2015 general elections put an end to the two-party dominance between the centre-left PSOE and the centre-right PP. However, the political parties failed to agree on the country's next prime minister and in May 2016, King Felipe VI signed a decree to dissolve the parliament and hold new general elections on June 26th. Not before the end of October was Mariano Rajoy (PP) re-elected as prime minister and could build a minority government.

According to opinion data provided by the Centre for Sociological Research (Centro de Investigaciones Sociológicas, CIS), in September and October 2016, during the months prior to Rajoy's re-election as head of the Spanish government, 56% of the population considered the "general political situation" as very bad; since then, this proportion has decreased, but in May 2017 nearly four out of every ten interviewees held this opinion. By then, the draft of the General State Budget for 2017 had not yet been approved by the Lower House, a clear signal of difficulties in governability (Figure II. 1).

Compared with these data, the perception of the "general economic situation" appears to be less critical. However, nearly six out of ten interviewees qualified it as "bad" (36%) or "very bad" (23%) in May 2017 (Figure II.2). In light of these data, the improvement of macroeconomic indicators since 2014 (first and foremost, economic growth and employment) is reflected only very modestly in Spanish public opinion. All in all, negative perceptions about politics and the economy prevail in society.

Figure II.1

Opinion about the "general political situation" (Spain, January 2016-May 2017)
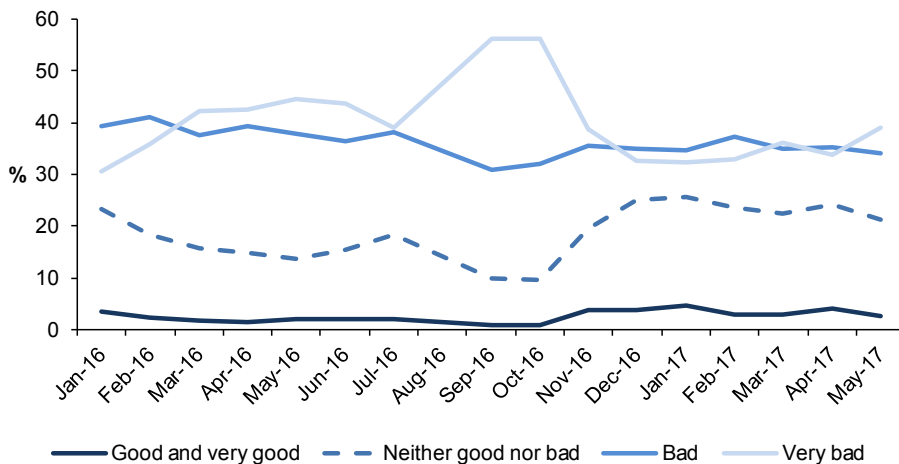
Question: "And now referring to the general political situation in Spain, how would you consider it: very good, good, neither good nor bad, bad or very bad?".
Source: Centro de Investigaciones Sociológicas (www.cis.es).

Figure II.2

Opinion about the "general economic situation" (Spain, January 2016-May 2017)

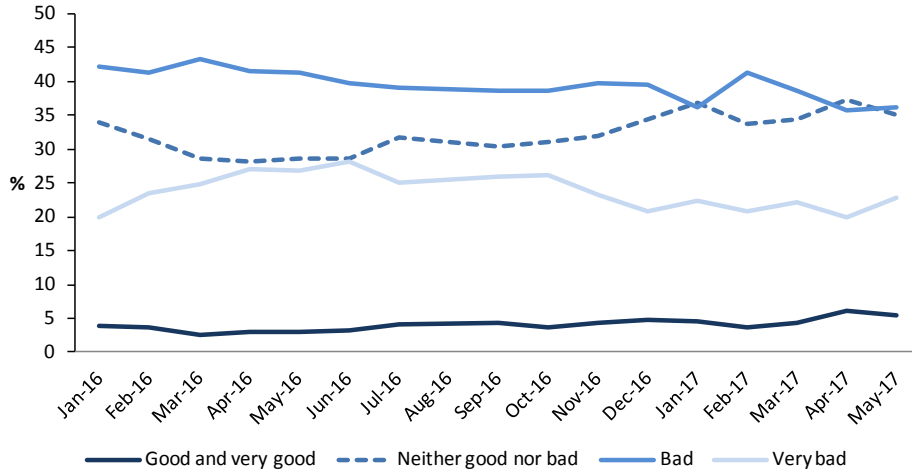*Question:* "To begin with, referring to the general economic situation in Spain, how would you consider it: very good, good, neither good nor bad, bad or very bad?".
Source: Centro de Investigaciones Sociológicas (www.cis.es).

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		
2017*	46,539,026	42.92	18.82			53.21	28.84	13.24		
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.*
* Provisional data.
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	2.76	11.6	10.27
2008	16,742	2.71	12.0	10.24
2010	17,173	2.67	12.8	9.93
2012	17,434	2.63	13.7	9.91
2014*	18,328	2.51	14.2	10.55
2015	18,375	2.54	14.6	10.74
2016	18,444	2.52		
2017▪	18,500	2.52		
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	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
2016						2.86
Sources	ID INE	ID INE	CGPJ	ID INE	ID INE	MNP

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: *Labour 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.
MNP: Movimiento Natural de la Población.
▪ *Data refer to January-March.*
*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
2017■	21.7	6.1	28.2	40.4
Source	**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	630,349	445,455	1,405,894	16,636
2008	1,763,019	629,247	472,604	1,377,228	49,799
2010	1,872,829	672,213	555,580	1,445,392	100,963
2012	1,912,324	692,098	617,686	1,450,036	111,087
2014	1,840,008	690,738	652,846	1,361,340	139,844
2015	1,806,620●	694.224●	634.575●	1,321,698	171,043
Source	**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
2015●	46,648,800	4.34
Sources	**MECD**	**Contabilidad Nacional del INE**

LFS: Labour Force Survey.
MECD: Ministerio de Educación, Cultura y Deporte.
INE: Instituto Nacional de Estadística.
• Provisional data.
■ Data refer to January-March.
* 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	723	859,780	731.5	2,196,934	477
2008	1,100,879	4,936,839	815	906,835	801.5	2,249,904	529
2010	1,471,826	5,140,554	884	933,730	849.9	2,290,090	572
2012	1,381,261	5,330,195	946	943,296	887.3	2,322,938	602
2014	1,059,799	5,558,964	1,000	929,484	915.6	2,348,388	624
2015	838,392	5,641,908	1,021	931,668	923.3	2,353,257	631
2016	763,697	5,731,952	1,043	938,344	929.7	2,364,388	638
2017•	731,304	5,791,590	1,058	943,491	935.0	2,357,526	644
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•	962,090	255,636	200,008	19,841
Sources	IMSERSO	IMSERSO	IMSERSO	BEL

BEL: *Boletín de Estadísticas Laborales.*
IMSERSO: Instituto de Mayores y Servicios Sociales.
* Benefits for orphans and dependent family members of deceased Social Security affiliates are excluded.
• Data refer to January-April.

Table III. 5
Social protection: Health care

Expenditure

	Total expenditure (% GDP)	Public expenditure (% GDP)	Total exp. per capita (euros)	Public exp. per capita (euros)
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
Sources	OECD	OECD	INCLASNS	INCLASNS

Resources

	Medical specialists per 1,000 inhabitants	Primary care doctors per 1,000 people assigned	Specialist nurses per 1,000 inhabitants	Primary care nurses per 1,000 people assigned
2006	1.6	0.7	2.8	0.6
2008	1.8	0.8	3.0	0.6
2010	1.8	0.8	3.2	0.6
2012	1.8	0.8	3.1	0.6
2014	1.8	0.8	3.1	0.7
Sources	INCLASNS	INCLASNS	INCLASNS	INCLASNS

Satisfaction   Patients on waiting list

	With the working of the health system	With medical history and tracing by family doctor or pediatrician	Non-urgent surgical procedures per 1,000 inhabitants	Specialist consultations per 1,000 inhabitants
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	7.5	12.2	43.4
2016	6.6	7.5	12.7	40.9
Sources	INCLASNS	INCLASNS	INCLASNS	INCLASNS

OECD: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.
INCLASNS: *Indicadores Clave del Sistema Nacional de Salud*.

Table III.6

Labour market

	Employment		Unemployment				Social Security affiliation		
	Men (in thousands)	Women (in thousands)	Men (in thousands)	Women (in thousands)	Rate (men)	Rate (women)	Men (in thousands)	Women (in thousands)	Foreign population (in 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	10,048*	8,389*	2,090*	2,164*	17.2*	20.5*	9,623♦	8,302♦	1,736●
Sources	LFS	LFS	LFS	LFS	LFS	LFS	BEL	BEL	BEL

BEL: *Boletín de Estadísticas Laborales.*
LFS: *Labour Force Survey.*
* Data refer to January-March.
● Data refer to January-April.
♦ Data refer to January-May.

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