

*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. One-person households: Low poverty risk and rising expenditure among elderly people living alone
- I.2. Rising house prices in Spain and Europe

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

- Growing awareness of the drop in unemployment rates

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

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

## Section I. Spain in Europe

### I.1. One-person households: Low poverty risk and rising expenditure among elderly people living alone

Spain is one of the European countries which stands out for comparatively small proportions of people living in one-person households. In the Nordic countries (and Germany), around one fifth of the population lives in one-person households (12%-14% headed by people under 65 and ca. 8% by people 65 and older). On the opposite extreme, in Southern Europe the percentage of the population living in one-person households fluctuates between 9% and 14% depending on the country, and is quite evenly split between

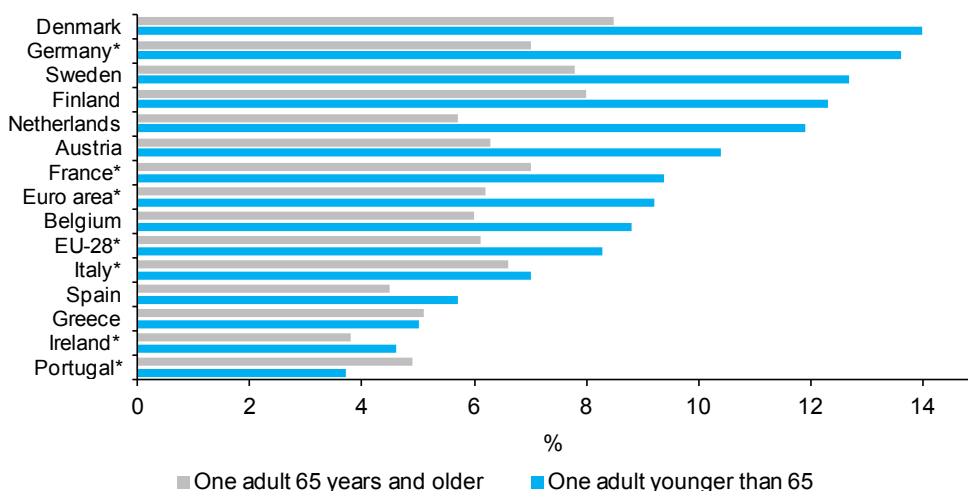
“adult” one-person households (under 65 years of age) and “elderly” one-person households (65 and older) (Figure I.1).

This age cleavage is very important in terms of income and risk of poverty or social exclusion. Thus, whereas in the EU-28, nearly 40% of people under 65 who live alone are at risk of poverty or social exclusion, among elderly dwelling in the same type of households, the percentage drops to 26%. In Spain, this difference is even more marked. Approximately one out of every eight (12%) individuals 65 and older living in one-person households is at risk of poverty or social exclusion, while the same holds true for more than a third of people living alone under 65 (35%) (Figure I.2).

Housing costs are most likely a relevant explanatory factor for this difference between adult and elderly one-person households.<sup>1</sup> In fact, housing costs

Figure I.1

#### Population by household type: One-person households (2016)



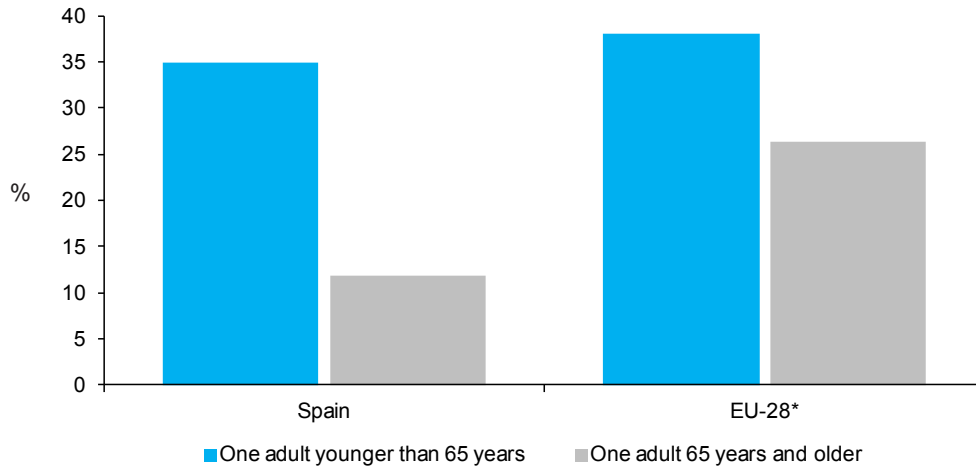
Note: \*2015 data.

Source: Eurostat (SILC).

<sup>1</sup> Even if these costs are only indirectly brought in the estimation of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion (AROP), which takes into consideration three factors: low income (under 60% of median income), severe material deprivation and low work intensity. One of the indicators used to identify severe material deprivation is not being able “to pay the rent, mortgage or utility bills”. But around 90% of the elderly Spanish population lives in owner-occupied homes, according to Devesa, E. *et al.* (2016), *La revolución de la longevidad y su influencia en las necesidades de financiación de los mayores*, Barcelona, Fundación Edad y Vida (p. 32).

Figure I.2

**People at risk of poverty or social exclusion, by household type: One-person households (Spain and EU-28, 2016)**



Note: \*2015 data.

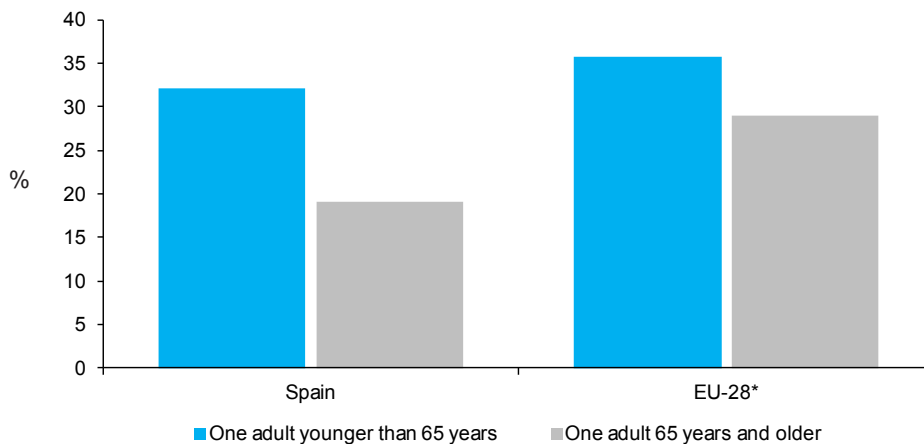
Source: Eurostat (SILC).

represent a much higher proportion of disposable income in one-person households headed by people under 65. In Spain, housing costs for people younger than 65 living alone represent 32% of total

income, four points less than the EU-28 average. However, these outlays drop to less than 20% in “elderly” one-person households, ten points less than the EU-28 average (Figure I.3).

Figure I.3

**Share of housing costs in disposable household income, by household type: One-person households (Spain and EU-28, 2016)**

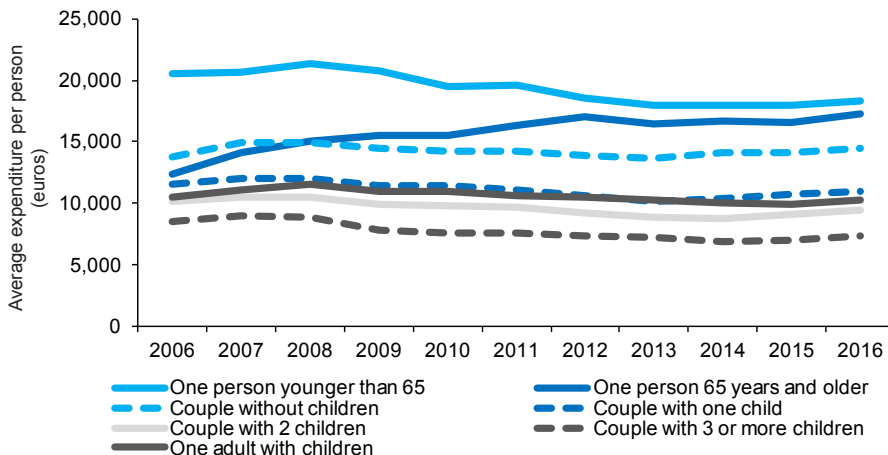


Note: \*2015 data.

Source: Eurostat (SILC).

Figure I.4

**Average expenditure per person, by household type (Spain, 2006-2016)**



Source: Household Budget Survey (*Encuesta de Presupuestos Familiares*), National Statistics Office ([www.ine.es](http://www.ine.es)).

In the Spanish case, recently published Household Budget Survey data help elucidate this disparity between both types of one-person households by focusing on expenditure. The average expenditure per person remains consistently higher in one-person households headed by people under 65 than in elderly one-person households, but since 2008 both amounts seem to be converging. While average expenditure of adult one-person households has been decreasing, it increased in elderly one-person households during the period 2006 through 2012, then stabilized between 2013 and 2015, and rose again in 2016. By that year, the amount of money spent by adult one-person households was roughly 1,000 euros above the amount spent by one-person households of individuals aged 65 and older (Figure I.4).

**1.2. Rising house prices in Spain and Europe**

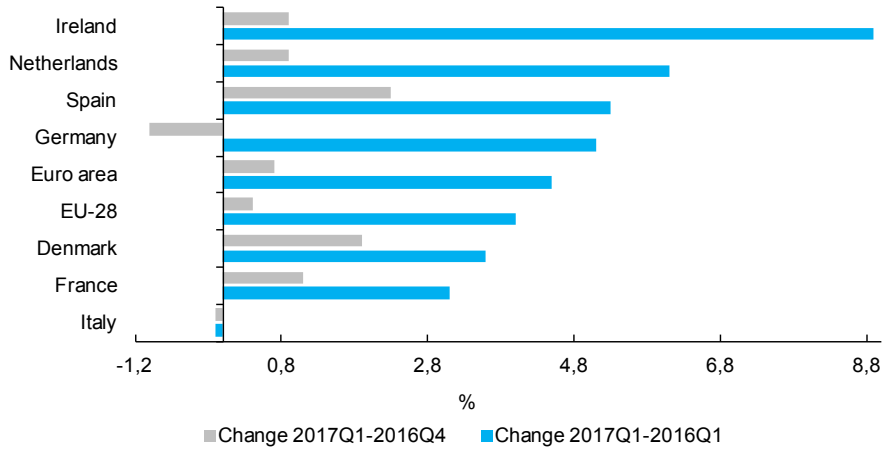
Recent media coverage in Spain has emphasized the rise in house prices. In fact, they are increasing above the European average. Compared with the first quarter of 2016, house prices rose in the first quarter of this year by 4% in the Eurozone area

(4.5% in the EU-28), confirming the upward trend as of the second half of 2014. But in Spain, they grew by 5.3% during the same period. Likewise, the rising prices of Spanish houses seem to be accelerating in the last months. From the last quarter of 2016 to the first quarter of 2017, they increased by 2.3%, around three times more than in the Eurozone. It should nevertheless be noted that other European countries (particularly, in Eastern Europe) show significantly higher increases in house prices than Spain. This is also the case in Ireland, which, like Spain, experienced a big housing boom during the first years of this century followed by a strong burst in 2007/8. House prices in Ireland rose to 8.9% between the first quarters of 2016 and 2017 (Figure I.5).

Actually, annual average rates of change in Spain's and Ireland's house prices have evolved quite similarly since 2006, with sharper oscillations in Ireland than in Spain. In contrast to Spain and Ireland, Greece's housing prices are still falling since its housing bubble crashed in 2008. Portugal's crisis was not linked to real estate costs, but Portuguese house prices are currently also soaring in the context of economic recovery (Figure I.6).

Figure I.5

**Recent changes in house prices in selected European countries (2016)**



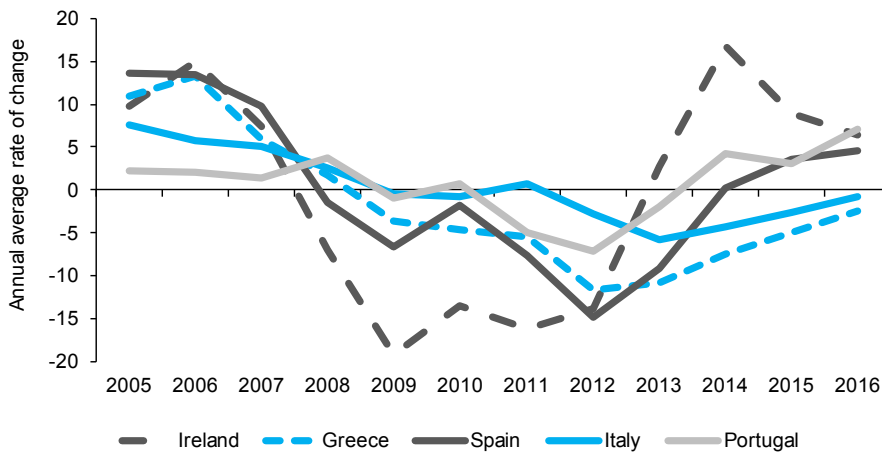
Source: Eurostat (prc\_hpi).

Despite increasing house prices in Spain, they are on average ca. 39% lower than in 2007, according to recent estimates.<sup>2</sup> Furthermore, the current growth rate of house prices is by far lower than before the crisis, when it exceeded 10% in some years coinciding with very high

housing demand. Recall that registered home buying in Spain reached a peak during 2005-2006, with an increase of more than one million annually, while it amounted to ca. 450,000 between the second quarter of 2016 and the second quarter of 2017.<sup>3</sup>

Figure I.6

**Changes in house prices in South European countries and Ireland (2006-2016)**



Source: Eurostat (prc\_hpi).

<sup>2</sup> See the last monthly TINSA report published in July 2017 (<https://www.tinsa.es/servicio-de-estudios/imie/general/julio-2017/>).

<sup>3</sup> As reported in the last published Real Estate Registry Statistics (Estadística Registral Inmobiliaria, 2º trimestre 2017: [http://www.registradores.org/wp-content/estadisticas/propiedad/eri/ERI\\_2T\\_2017.pdf](http://www.registradores.org/wp-content/estadisticas/propiedad/eri/ERI_2T_2017.pdf)).

## Section II. Public opinion trends

Growing awareness of the drop in unemployment rates

Although unemployment remains the first and foremost collective problem in the Spanish public's mind, confidence in the labor market began to slowly increase around the spring of 2013. In that year, unemployment rates reached a maximum of 26% of the active population, around nine points higher than today.

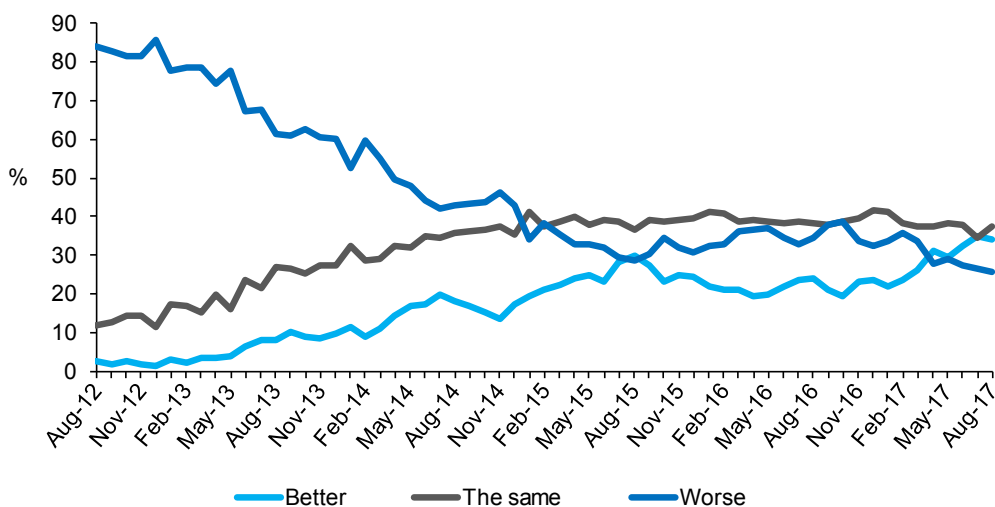
Residents in Spain aged 16 years and older acknowledge this recovery when asked to assess whether the general prospects for employed people to improve their job and for the unemployed to find a job are better or worse than six months before. According to opinion poll data provided

by the Centre for Sociological Research (Centro de Investigaciones Sociológicas, CIS), up to the second half of 2012, pessimism was widespread and increasing. At that time, as many as 85% of respondents considered labor market prospects had worsened compared to six months ago, and as few as 2% said they had improved. As of 2013, though, pessimism has been on a declining trend (even if it seems quite steady at around 30% of the population since 2015). In contrast, optimism is by and large increasing (though moderately and with some ups and downs), so that during the current year, "better" prospects outperform "worse" prospects (Figure II.1).

These opinions about the general labor market situation find support in the public's everyday experience of their immediate social environment. Estimates of the number of people known by the respondent who are looking for a job have declined during the period 2014-2017. Though the average number fell below four people in the summer of 2014, it still remains considerably high

Figure II.1

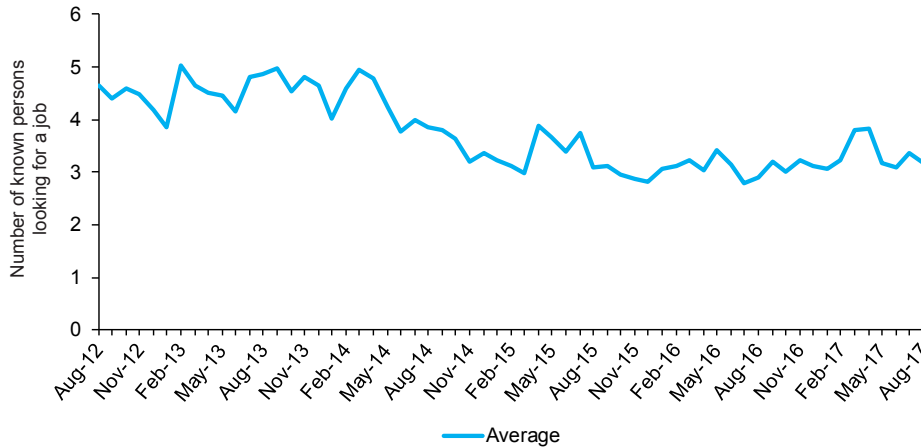
**Prospects of improving or finding a job compared with six months ago (Spain, August 2012-August 2017)**



Question: "Do you consider the situation in Spain to improve or find a job better or worse than six months ago?".  
Source: Consumer Confidence Index, Centro de Investigaciones Sociológicas ([www.cis.es](http://www.cis.es)).

Figure II.2

**Number of persons known by the respondent looking for a job (Spain, August 2012- August 2017)**

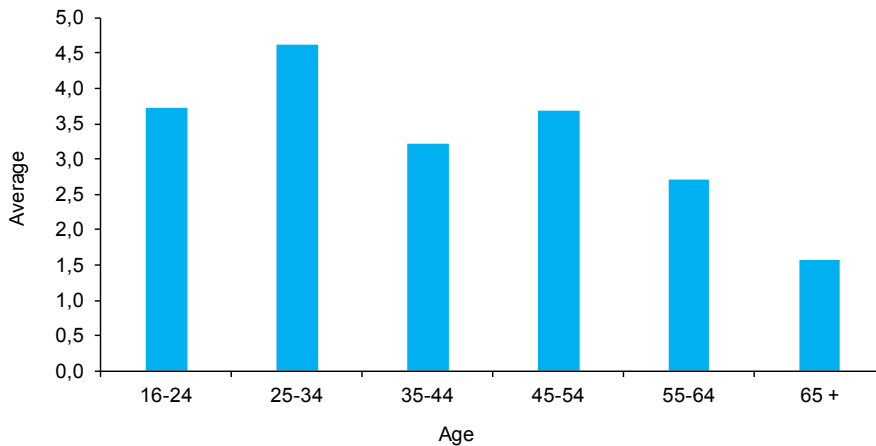


Question: “How many people do you know currently out of work and looking for a job?”.

Source: Consumer Confidence Index, Centro de Investigaciones Sociológicas (www.cis.es).

Figure II.3

**Number of persons known by the respondent looking for a job, by age groups (Spain, August 2017)**



Question: “How many people do you know currently out of work and looking for a job?”.

Source: Consumer Confidence Index, Centro de Investigaciones Sociológicas (www.cis.es).

at 3.16 (Figure II.2). However, the number varies significantly between age groups, with young respondents between 25 and 34 years knowing more unemployed people than older (and younger) respondents, according to most recent data (Figure II.3).

## 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-28 born) (%)
2006	44,708,964	40.6	16.7	77.7	84.2	47.5	24.6	10.8	840,844	37.6
2008	46,157,822	40.8	16.5	78.2	84.3	47.5	24.5	13.1	726,009	28.4
2010	47,021,031	41.1	16.9	79.1	85.1	48.6	25.0	14.0	464,443	35.6
2012	47,265,321	41.6	17.4	79.4	85.1	50.4	26.1	14.3	370,515	36.4
2014	46,771,341	42.1	18.1	80.1	85.7	51.6	27.4	13.4	399,947	38.0
2015	46,624,382	42.4	18.4	79.9	85.4	52.4	28.0	13.2	455,679	36.4
2016	46,557,008	42.7	18.6	80.4	85.9	52.9	28.4	13.2	534,574	33.4
2017 <sup>•</sup>	46,528,966	42.9	18.8			53.2	28.8	13.2		
<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.*

• *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 (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	10.2
2008	16,742	2.71	12.0	10.2
2010	17,174	2.67	12.8	9.9
2012	17,434	2.63	13.7	9.9
2014*	18,329	2.51	14.2	10.5
2015	18,376	2.54	14.6	10.7
2016	18,444	2.52	14.6	10.9
2017 <sup>•</sup>	18,503	2.51		
<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 (%)
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	7.39	6.52				2.86
<i>Sources</i>	ID INE	ID INE	CGPJ	ID INE	ID INE	MNP

<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 (%)
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
2016	30.8	1.27	1.70			
<i>Sources</i>	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-June.*

\**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*	21.6	6.5	28.2	40.6
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	50,421
2010	1,872,829	672,213	555,580	1,445,392	104,844
2012	1,912,324	692,098	617,686	1,450,036	113,805
2014*	1,840,008	690,738	652,846	1,364,023	142,156
2015	1,808,322	695,557	641,741	1,321,698	171,043
2016•	1,778,620	687,692	651,722	1,307,461	184,745
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-June.

\* 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	477
2008	1,100,879		4,936,839	814.5	906,835	801.5	2,249,904	529
2010	1,471,826		5,140,554	884.0	933,730	849.9	2,290,090	572
2012	1,381,261		5,330,195	946.3	943,296	887.3	2,322,938	602
2014	1,059,799		5,558,964	999.8	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•	715,813		5,801,842	1,060	945,184	935.6	2,358,343	645
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•	921,638	255,849	199,678	19,481
Sources	BEL	IMSERO	IMSERO	IMSERO

BEL: *Boletín de Estadísticas Laborales*.

IMSERO: 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****Expenditure**

	Total expenditure (% GDP)	Public expenditure (% GDP)	Total expenditure (\$ per inhabitant)	Public expenditure (per inhabitant)
2006	7.76	5.62	2,391	1,732
2008	8.29	6.10	2,774	2,042
2010	9.01	6.74	2,886	2,157
2012	9.09	6.55	2,902	2,095
2014	9.08	6.36	3,057	2,140
2015	9.16	6.51	3,180	2,258
2016	8.98	6.34	3,248	2,293
<i>Sources</i>	<b>OECD</b>	<b>OECD</b>	<b>OECD</b>	<b>OECD</b>

**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
2015	1.9	0.8	3.2	0.7
<i>Sources</i>	<b>INCLASNS</b>	<b>INCLASNS</b>	<b>INCLASNS</b>	<b>INCLASNS</b>

**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
<i>Sources</i>	<b>INCLASNS</b>	<b>INCLASNS</b>	<b>INCLASNS</b>	<b>INCLASNS</b>

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	10,152 <sup>■</sup>	8,473 <sup>■</sup>	1,996 <sup>■</sup>	2,088 <sup>■</sup>	16.4 <sup>■</sup>	19.7 <sup>■</sup>	9,698 <sup>◆</sup>	8,316 <sup>◆</sup>	1,783 <sup>◆</sup>
<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>

BEL: *Boletín de Estadísticas Laborales*.

LFS: *Labour Force Survey*.

■ Data refer to January-June.

◆ Data refer to January-July.





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