

*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. Increased presence of young adults in the workforce: Benefits of education
- I.2. High percentage of youths living at home

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

- Improvement in saving prospects: Greater optimism among the young

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

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

## Section I. Spain in Europe

### I.1. Increased presence of young adults in the workforce: Benefits of education

The demographic group of persons aged 25-29 encompasses young adults who, for the most part, are not enrolled in education. In Spain, two thirds of people in this age group are employed. This proportion is significantly smaller than the one registered just before the crisis began (2007: 78.9%), but appreciably bigger than in 2013, when, during the first six months, the percentage of employed people between 25 and 29 reached its lowest point with 57% (Figure I.1).

Although the Spanish data clearly show an upward trend since 2016 (each quarter displays higher percentages than the corresponding quarter of the previous year), they are still quite far from the EU(28) average as well as from some countries like France and Germany, where approximately

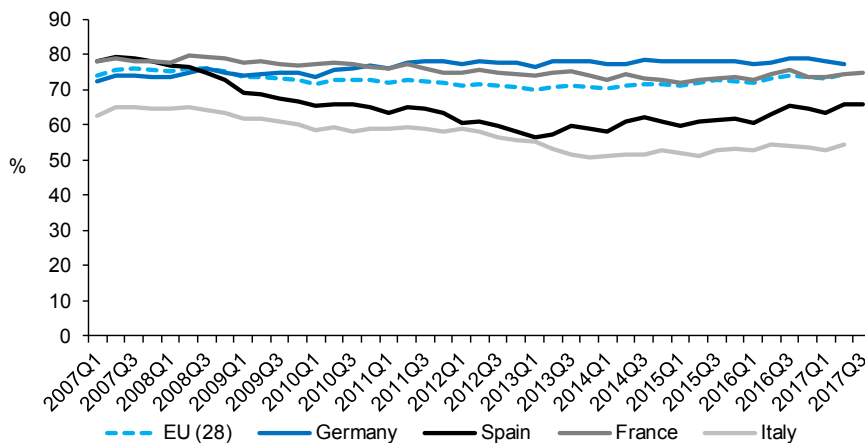
three out of every four people aged 25 to 29 are nowadays employed. In contrast, Italy shows a poor record as regards young adults' employment. According to latest available data, only 55% of 25 to 29 years old people living in Italy are employed, 20 points below the EU(28) average. Even before the crisis, the employment performance of young adults in Italy was unmistakably worse than that of most European countries.

Education makes an important difference in the likelihood of employment in Spain. As illustrated in Figure I.2, tertiary education provides for a clear advantage: The rate of employed young adults (25-29) living in Spain with a university degree is, according to recently published Labour Force Survey data, ca. 8 points higher than that of those having completed upper secondary or vocational education, and 13 points higher than that of those who have achieved at most lower secondary education. These intra-cohort educational differences grew during the crisis and are still sizable.

Does education have a similar impact in other countries? According to the results shown in Figure I.3a, the answer is affirmative in the cases of France and Germany, though with important nuances. In both countries, the employment

Figure I.1

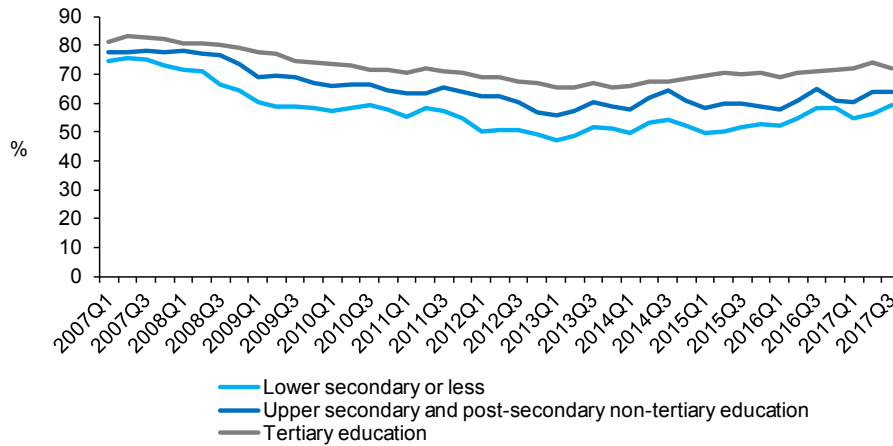
#### Employed people (25-29) as a percentage of same total population (Germany, France, Italy, Spain and EU-28, 2007-2017)



Source: Eurostat (lfsq\_ergaed).

Figure I.2

**Employed people (25-29) as a percentage of same total population (25-29), by education (Spain, 2007-2017)**



Source: Eurostat (lfsq\_ergaed).

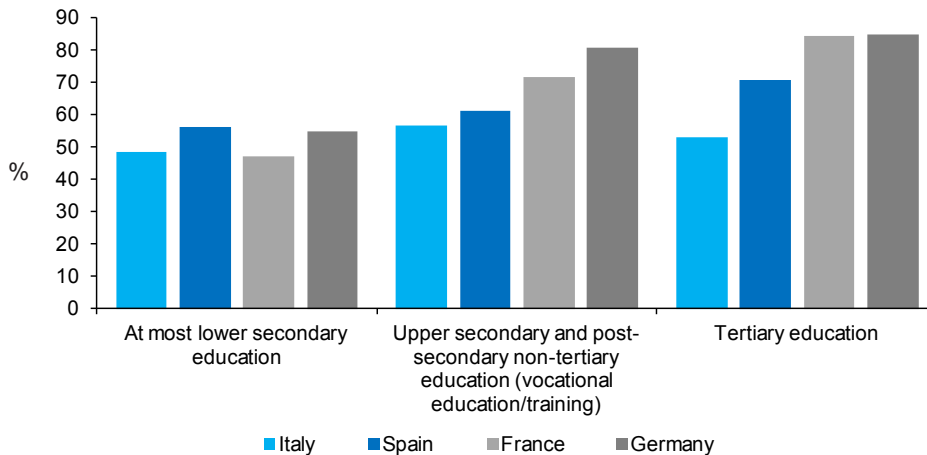
disadvantage of the less qualified vis-à-vis the better qualified is more pronounced than in Spain, but while France also shows a clear employment gain from obtaining a university degree, in Germany, the differences between university graduates and those having attained an upper secondary or vocational degree are very small

(this evidence is in line with the high prestige of the German dual vocational education system).

Figure I.3b. shows these same results from a different perspective. It confirms that, in terms of employment, tertiary education pays off particularly in France and Spain, where young adults with

Figure I.3a

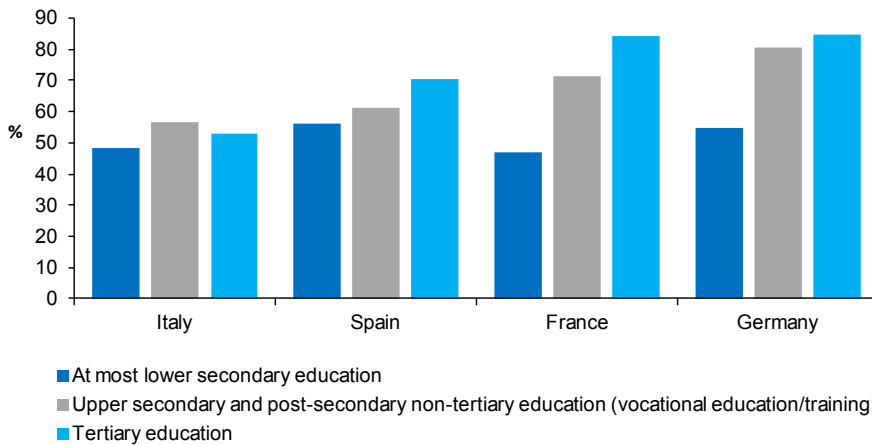
**Employed people (25-29) as a percentage of same total population (25-29), by education (Germany, France, Italy and Spain, 2016)**



Source: Eurostat (lfsq\_ergaed).

Figure 1.3b

**Employed people (25-29) as a percentage of same total population, by education (Germany, France, Italy and Spain, 2016)**



Source: Eurostat (ifsq\_ergaed).

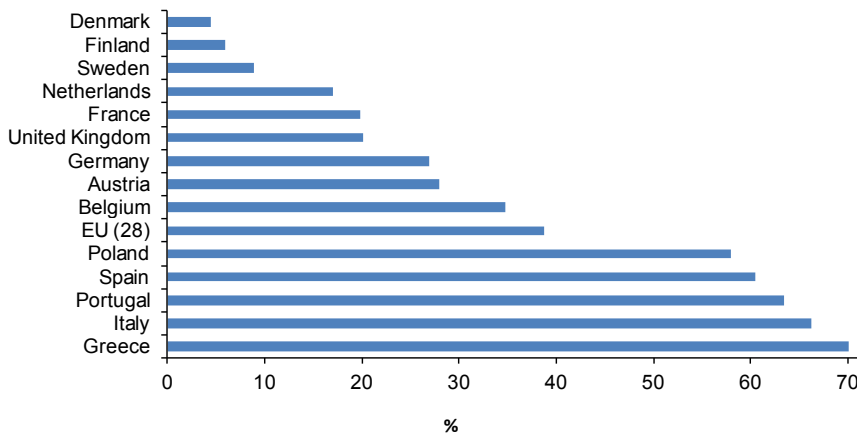
a university degree show significantly higher employment rates than those with non-tertiary education. In Germany, vocational education and training is only slightly less profitable than university education. Curiously enough, in Italy young people with a university degree are worse off than those with upper secondary and vocational education, and not significantly better off than those with lower secondary education or less.

**1.2. High percentage of youths living at home**

However important differences in employment of European young adults are, more significant are those regarding where they live. So, while in the Nordic countries less than 10% of people between 25 and 29 live in the parental home, in Southern

Figure 1.4

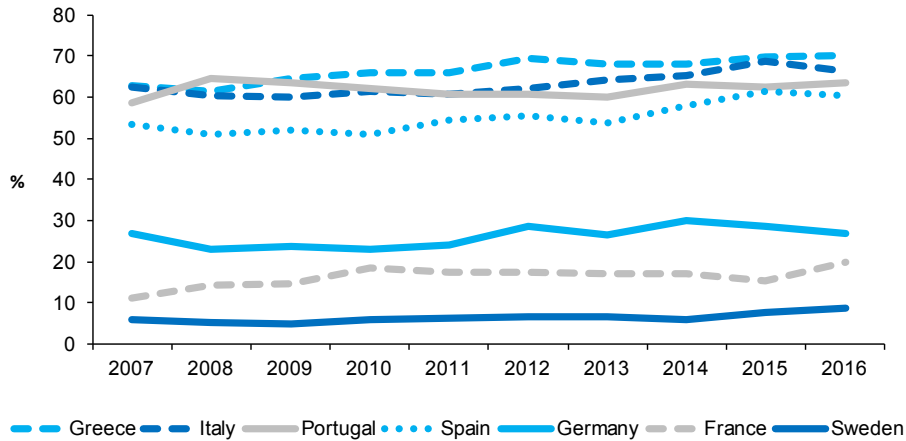
**Young adults (25-29) living with their parents (selected European countries, 2016)**



Source: Eurostat (ilc\_lvps08).

Figure I.5

**Young adults (25-29) living with their parents (selected European countries, 2007-2016)**



Source: Eurostat (ilc\_lvps08).

Europe, more than 60% reside with their parents. Most central European countries lie in between, but closer to the Scandinavian pattern (Figure I.4).

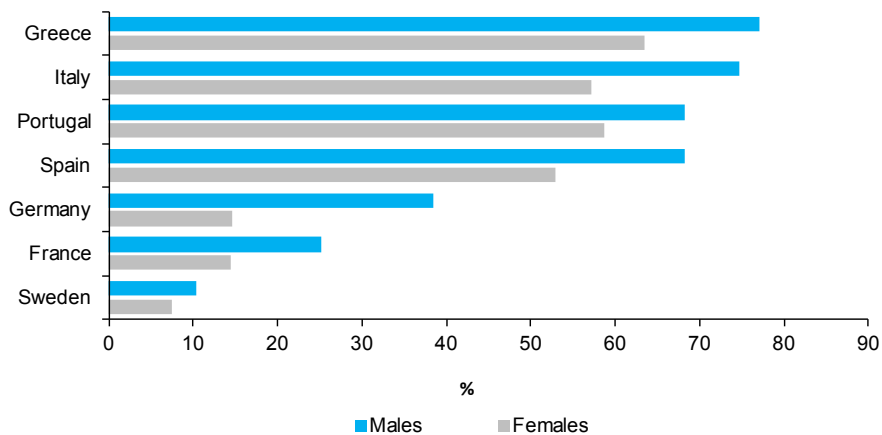
Taking a closer look at the evolution of this indicator during the last decade, it clearly appears that the stated international disparities existed before the Great Recession. In fact, the percentage of

people between 25 and 29 living at their parents' house has tended to increase everywhere during the crisis years, but more intensely in some South European countries, first and foremost Greece and Spain (Figure I.5).

Noteworthy differences emerge in each country when distinguishing by sex, as shown in Figure I.6.

Figure I.6

**Young adults (25-29) living with their parents, by sex (selected European countries, 2016)**



Source: Eurostat (ilc\_lvps08).

In all selected countries more female than male aged 25 to 29 have emancipated from their parents' house, the gender gap being especially significant in Germany and France. In Spain, about one out of two women (53%) between 25 and 29 live with their parents, while the corresponding male percentage exceeds two thirds (68%).

## Section II. Public opinion trends

Improvement in saving prospects:  
Greater optimism among the young

Asked whether saving prospects for the coming year were better, worse or the same as those of the current year's, one out of every two respondents (50%) of all ages chose "worse" in October 2012, while only one out of every twenty (6%) answered

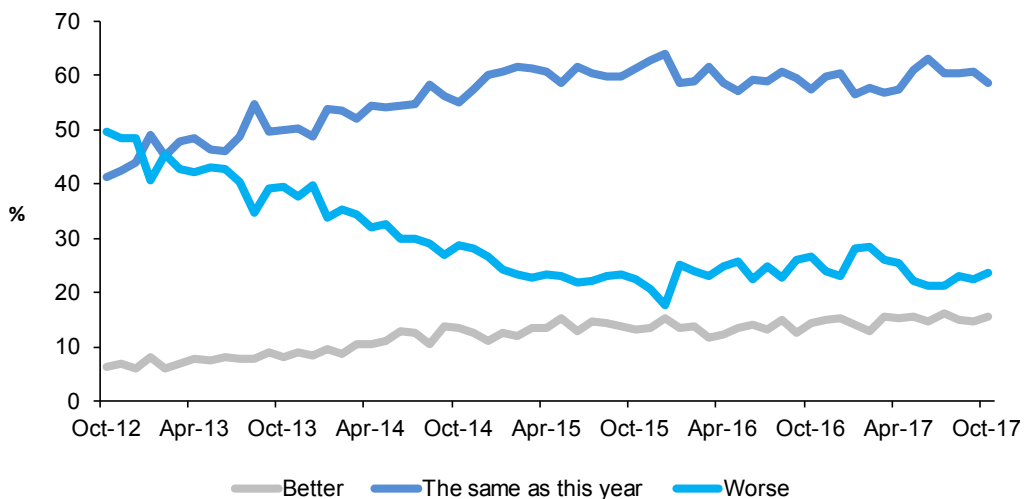
"better". Five years later, by October 2017, the respondents providing a pessimistic answer have fallen to 24%. The bulk of the general public (59%) answers "the same as this year", while ca. one out of every seven (17%) chooses the optimistic response (Figure II.1).

If attention is focused on the younger age groups, the first evidence that emerges is that they consistently present themselves as more optimistic as regards their saving prospects than older respondents. In addition, their saving expectations have improved during that period more starkly than that of the general population.

According to the results depicted in Figure II.2, saving prospects and age seem to be negatively correlated: the older the respondents, the less optimistic concerning their saving capacity. In October 2017, 40% of respondents aged 16-24 years were confident in the possibility of increasing their savings in the coming year, while

Figure II.1

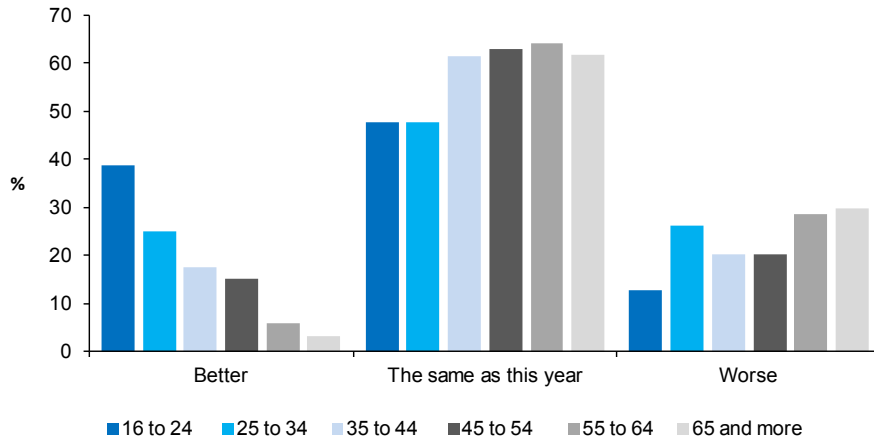
### Saving prospects for next year compared to this year (October 2012-October 2017)



Question: "Are your saving prospects for next year better, worse or the same as this year's?"

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

Figure II.2

**Saving prospects for next year compared to this year, by age (October 2017)**

*Question:* "Are your saving prospects for next year better, worse or the same as this year's?"

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

hardly 5% of people 55 and older thought this was an option. Conceivably, optimism is not related to effective revenues, since young people have in general less regular income than older adults. Optimism may be rather a general attitude of the youth. All in all, these different answering patterns have most likely to do with the scope of spending responsibilities. Young people in Spain have in general fewer obligations. Thus, even if their personal income is not very high, many can afford putting aside some money for other purposes.

## 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•	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	10.3
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	10.6
2015	18,376	2.54	14.6	10.7
2016	18,444	2.52	14.6	10.9
2017•	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	9.3	9.5	155,628	34.1	30.0	2.08
2008	8.5	8.4	131,060	34.6	31.5	1.62
2010	7.2	7.9	127,682	35.7	32.5	1.87
2012	7.2	6.7	127,160	36.3	33.3	2.04
2014	6.9	6.5	133,643	36.9	33.9	2.06
2015	7.3	6.5	130,141	37.2	34.3	2.26
2016	7.4	6.5				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-September.*

\**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*	21.5	6.6	28.4	41.1
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-September.

\* 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	720,163■		5,820,849●	1,063●	946,698●	935.9●	2,359,934●	646●
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	903,260■	255,849●	199,678●	19,481●
Sources	BEL	IMSERSO	IMSERSO	IMSERSO

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-November.

● Data refer to January-October.

Table III. 5

**Social protection: Health care****Expenditure**

	Total (% GDP)	Public (% 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	10,242 <sup>☐</sup>	8,525 <sup>☐</sup>	1,934 <sup>☐</sup>	2,033 <sup>☐</sup>	15.9 <sup>☐</sup>	19.3 <sup>☐</sup>	9,741 <sup>■</sup>	8,342 <sup>■</sup>	1,798 <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-September.

■ Data refer to January-October.





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