

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 one particular social issue 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 and education, health and welfare benefits and services.

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Section I. Spain in Europe

I.1. Declining nuptiality with exceptions

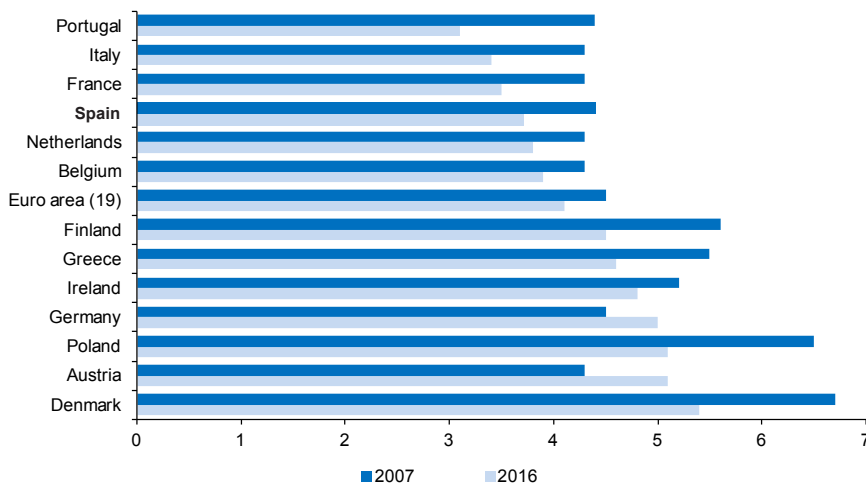
According to newly released demographic data referring to the first semester of 2018, after three years of slight increases, the number of marriages contracted in Spain between January and June 2018 has fallen by 5.7% as compared with the same period in 2017. This new figure adds to the various evidence of the decreasing importance of marriage in Spain, with 2013 as the year in which fewer weddings were celebrated since the establishment of democracy: ca. 153,000 marriages (*i.e.*, 100,000 less than 40 years earlier). The evolution suggests that the economic crisis had a significant impact on marriage. Crude marriage rates (that is, the number of marriages per 1,000 inhabitants) back this argument. Actually, the majority of European countries have

experienced a downturn in marriage rates during the crisis years, a trend that has lasted until 2014. And although rates have recovered since then, they have not achieved the levels prior to the Great Recession (Figure I.1).

In fact, Spain was in 2016 (last available Eurostat data) one of the European countries in which people married the least. Together with France, Portugal, Italy and The Netherlands, Spain registered in 2016 a crude marriage rate below 4 per 1,000. By contrast, Denmark, Poland, Austria and Germany belong to the group of countries with highest marriage rates in 2016 (over 5 per 1,000). The last year in which Spain registered a crude marriage rate above 5 per 1,000 was 2002.

Even though the total number of marriages has declined in Spain between 2000 and 2016 by 22% (from around 216,000 to 170,000), marriages among people 60 and over have increased (Figure I.2). The number of marriages contracted by males older than 59, as well as the number of marriages contracted by women in the same age group, has more than tripled (3.4 times for males and 3.6 times for females). Are the absolute

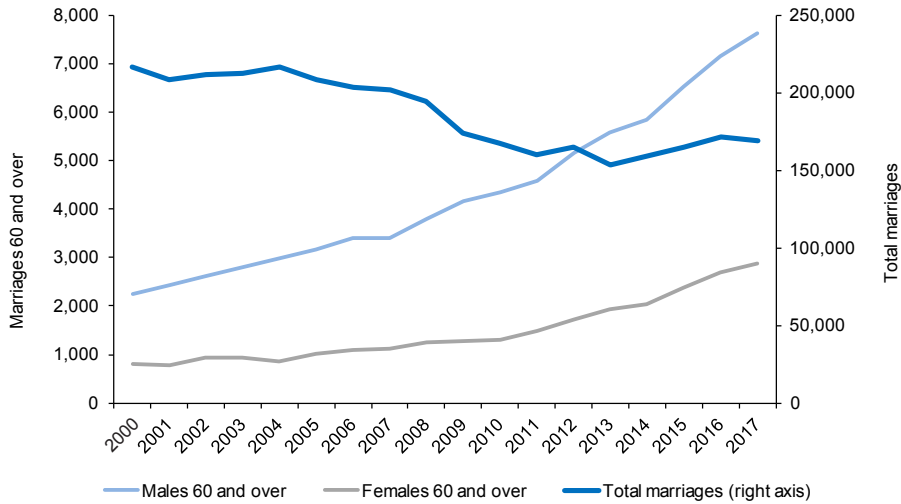
Figure I.1
Crude marriage rates (selected European countries, 2007 and 2016)



Source: Eurostat (indic_de).

Figure I.2

Number of total marriages and of marriages contracted by people 60 and over (Spain, 2000-2017)



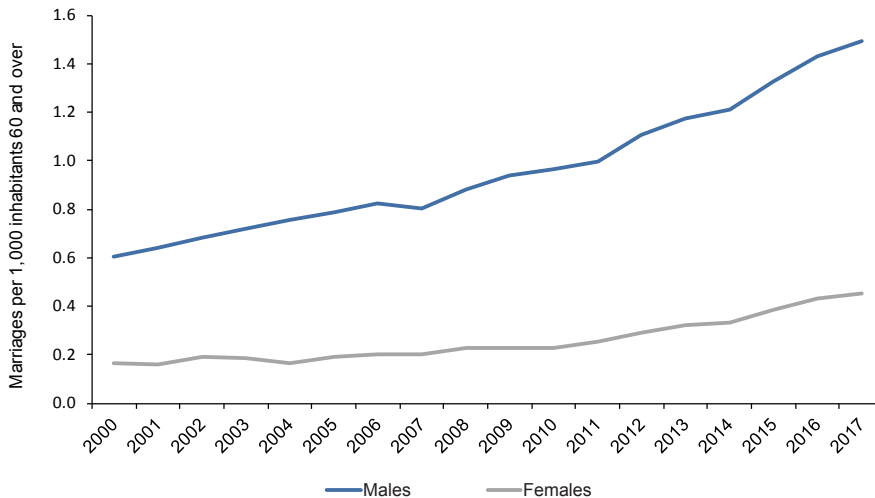
Source: INE (Movimiento Natural de la Población).

numbers perhaps simply reflecting the growth of this age group in the Spanish population? The answer is no. If we calculate the number of marriages contracted by males and females 60 and over as a percentage of their respective populations, we realize that marriage is effectively

on the rise among elderly people. The proportions are still small: in 2017, 1.5 per 1,000 males and 0.5 per 1,000 females 60 and older got married (the marriage rate for the whole population in that year was 3.68 per 1,000). But both groups have more than doubled the rates they exhibited

Figure I.3

Crude marriage rates of people 60 and over (Spain, 2000-2017)



Source: INE (Movimiento Natural de la Población).

in 2000 (Figure I.3). This evidence hints at more plural family patterns in old age (particularly due to remarriage) as well as at changing individual perspectives of elderly life.

1.2. Persistent challenges in the management of applications for asylum

Refugees continue to be concentrated in a small number of European countries, with Germany holding 59% of total refugee permits in the European Union, France 17% and Sweden 8% (Figure I.4).

Yet, until December 2017, the latest date for which Eurostat provides data, Sweden was the country which had granted by far more refugee permits over total residence permits (37%), followed by Germany (17%) and Belgium (15%) (Figure I.5). Together with Italy, Ireland, Poland and Portugal, Spain was among the countries that had approved the fewest permits as a proportion of all residence permits granted (less than 2%).

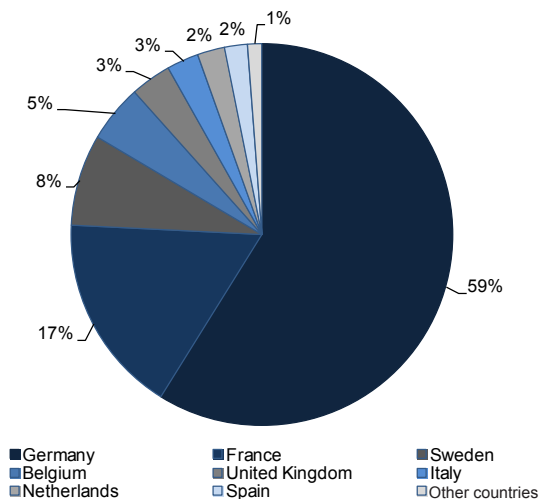
Those countries with higher percentages of refugee permits also show larger proportions of positive resolutions among total applications. However, this form of “generosity” has declined as of 2016. While Sweden and Germany granted far more than half of all applications in 2015 and 2016, in 2018 (until September 30th) the percentages in both countries have dropped to 33% and 41%, respectively (Figure I.6). France and Italy have maintained stable percentages between 2015 and 2018, but Spain has shown more volatility in this variable.

The management of refugees’ applications also poses challenges for the administrative systems of European countries. Actually, management capacities seem to be quite different in this regard. For example, in the first nine months of 2018 Italy and Sweden have been able to resolve amounts of applications which represent approximately half of those that were pending at the end of 2017 (in absolute numbers, Italy has resolved 72,000 applications, and Sweden 23,000); Germany, a third (138,000), and Spain a fourth (9,060) (Figure I.7).

True, seemingly the Spanish state has increased its capacities in refugee administrative

Figure I.4

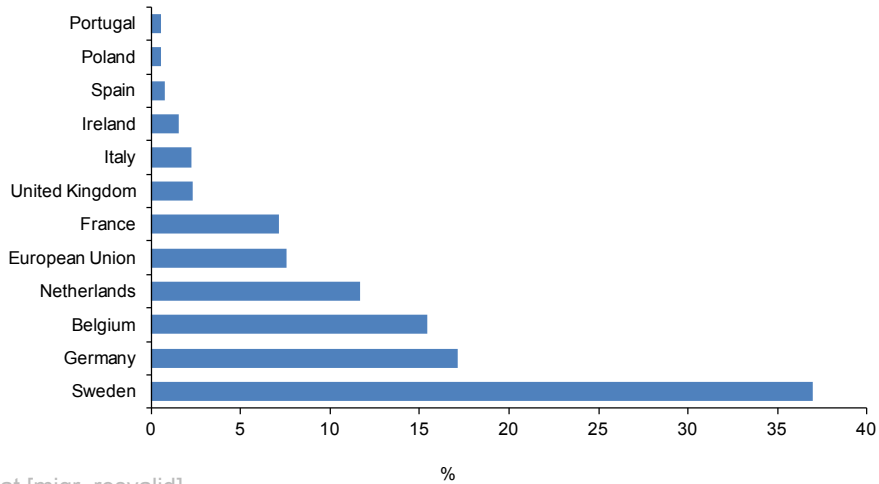
Distribution of refugees in European Union countries (December 2017)



Source: Eurostat [migr_resvalid].

Figure I.5

Percentage of refugee status and subsidiary protection permits over total residence permits (until December 31st, 2017)



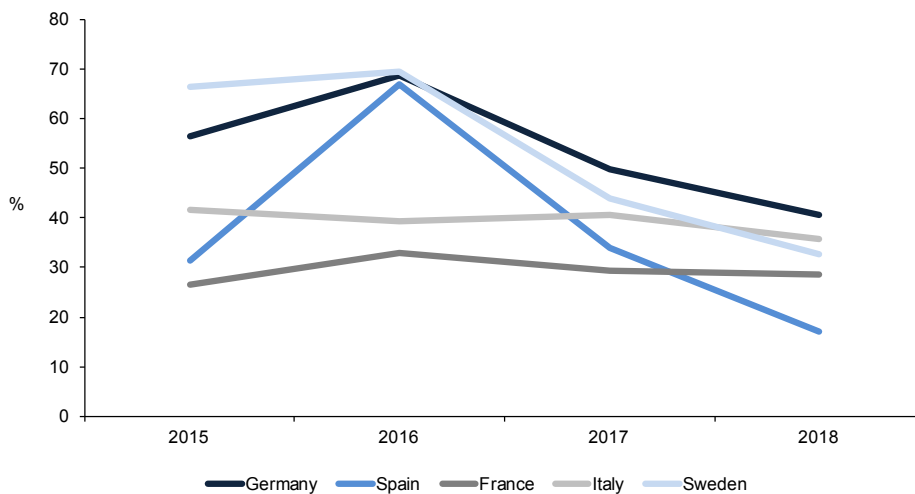
Source: Eurostat [migr_resvalid].

management during the last years: in 2015, migration authorities resolved 3,245 applications (43% of all pending at the end of the previous year); in 2016, 10,250 (62%);

and in 2017, 12,060 (59%). This positive evolution notwithstanding, on December 1st, 2018, 74,430 applications were still pending resolution.

Figure I.6

Applications for asylum: Percentage of positive resolutions over total resolutions (2015-2018)

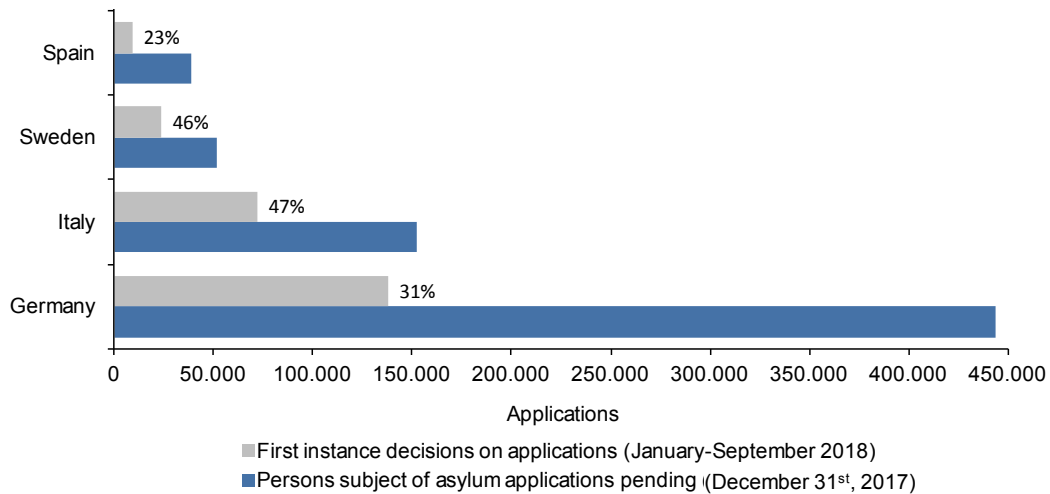


Note: 2018 data correspond to January-September.

Source: Eurostat [migr_asydcfstq].

Figure I.7

First instance decisions on applications (January-September 2018) and people subject of asylum applications pending resolution (until December 31st, 2017)



Source: Eurostat [migr_asypenczm].

Section II. Public opinion trends

Looking back to democratic transition as time goes by

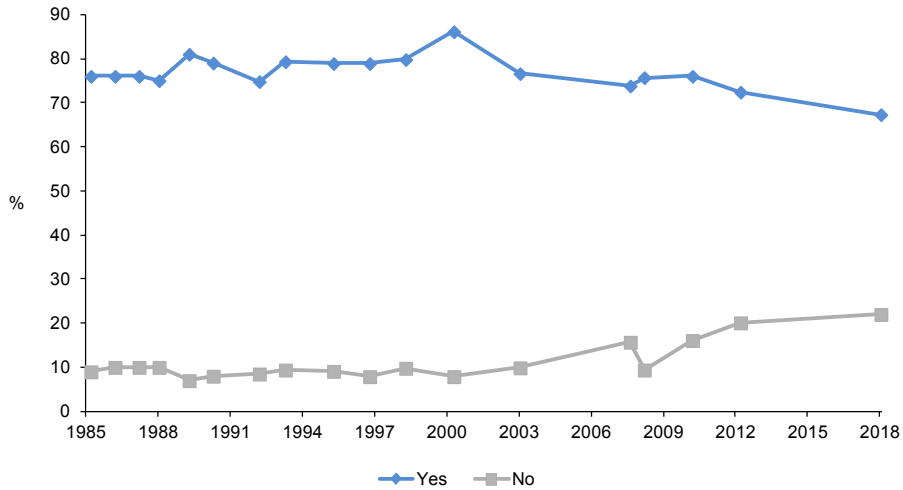
Forty years after the Spanish Constitution was approved, two thirds of the population think that Spaniards should be proud about the way in which the transition to democracy was achieved, while 22% do not share this opinion. These results have been drawn from a public opinion survey conducted in September 2018 by the Center for Sociological Research (CIS). Even though the proportion of sympathizers of the transition is three times higher than that of critics, the difference between both used to be bigger in the past. In the 80s and 90s, the praise for the way in which democratic transition was fulfilled oscillated between 75% and 80%. After a peak in 2000, it began a downward trend until today (Figure II.1).

But underlying these total data there are significant differences between age groups. Figure II.2 shows that support for the transition to democracy increases with age. Focusing on the latest data (September 2018), while around three quarters of interviewees aged 55 and over think the Spanish transition is a historic event to be proud of, among those under 35, the corresponding proportion represents slightly more than a half (Figure II.3).

Data thus suggest that the older the population, the more it backs the manner in which the transition to democracy was accomplished. But it appears to be not simply a question of age, but of the time passed since the political developments that constituted the transition to democracy in the second half of the 70s. It may be hypothesized that falling support of the way in which democracy was established in Spain is related to the decreasing direct knowledge and experiences of this period by younger generations and consequently to the lack in society of a consensual and broadly accepted narrative of the foundations of Spanish democracy.

Figure II.1

Praise for the way in which the transition to democracy was achieved (Spain, 1985-2018)

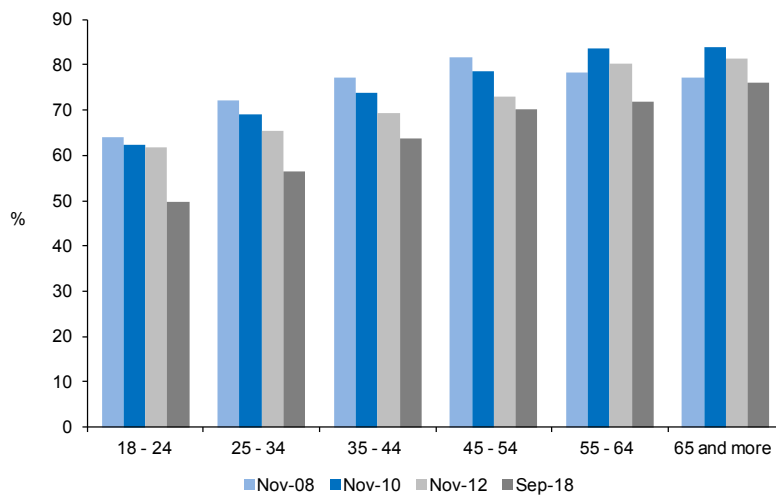


Question: “Do you think that the way in which the transition to democracy was achieved is a reason for Spaniards to be proud of?”

Source: Center for Sociological Research (Centro de Investigaciones Sociológicas: www.cis.es).

Figure II.2

Praise for the way in which the transition to democracy was achieved, by age (Spain, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2018)

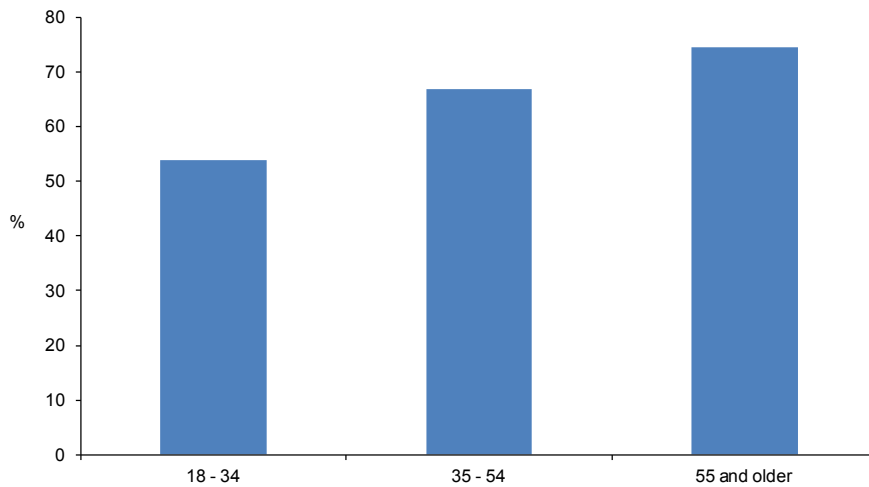


Question: “Do you think that the way in which the transition to democracy was achieved is a reason for Spaniards to be proud of?”

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

Figure II.3

Praise for the way in which the transition to democracy was achieved, by age (Spain, 2018)



Question: "Do you think that the way in which the transition to democracy was achieved is a reason for Spaniards to be proud of?"

Source: Center for Sociological Research (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-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	46,572,132	42.9	18.8			53.2	28.8	13.3		
2018*	46,698,569	43.1	19.1			53.6	29.3	13.6		
<i>Sources</i>	PMC	PMC	PMC	ID INE	ID INE	PMC	PMC	PMC	EVR	EVR

* Provisional data.

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 (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	18,512	2.52	14.2	11.4
2018*	18,554	2.52		
<i>Sources</i>	LFS	LFS	EPF	EPF

Table III.2

Households and families (continued)

Nuptiality						
	People getting married (per 1,000) (Spanish)	People getting married (per 1,000) (foreign population)	Divorce rate	Mean age at first marriage (men)	Mean age at first marriage (women)	Same sex marriages (%)
2006	9.3	9.5	2.86	32.2	29.7	2.08
2008	8.5	8.4	2.39	32.4	30.2	1.62
2010	7.2	7.9	2.21	33.2	31.0	1.87
2012	7.2	6.7	2.23	33.8	31.7	2.04
2014	6.9	6.5	2.17	34.4	32.3	2.06
2015	7.3	6.5	2.08	34.8	32.7	2.26
2016	7.5	6.8	2.08	35.0	32.9	2.46
2017	7.3	6.9	2.10	35.3	33.2	2.67
<i>Sources</i>	ID INE	ID INE	ID INE	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
2016	30.8	1.27	1.70	45.8	10.4	65.8
2017	30.9	1.24	1.70	46.8		
<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.

Divorce rate: Number of divorces 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	21.4	6.6	28.5	41.2
2018*	20.7	6.6	29.1	42.0
<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	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	1,780,377	687,595	652,471	1,303,252	190,143
2017•	1,758,271	675,990	657,143		
<i>Source</i>	MECD	MECD	MECD	MECD	MECD

Education expenditure

	Public expenditure (thousands of €)	Public expenditure (% GDP)
2006	42,512,586	4.22
2008	51,716,008	4.63
2010	53,099,329	4.91
2012	46,476,414	4.47
2014	44,846,415	4.32
2015	46,597,784	4.31
2016	47,578,997	4.25
<i>Sources</i>	MECD	INE

LFS: *Labour Force Survey*.MECD: *Ministerio de Educación, Cultura y Deporte*.INE: *Instituto Nacional de Estadística*.

• Provisional data.

▪ Data refer to January-September.

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	732	2,196,934	477
2008	1,100,879		4,936,839	814	906,835	801	2,249,904	529
2010	1,471,826		5,140,554	884	933,730	850	2,290,090	572
2012	1,381,261		5,330,195	946	943,296	887	2,322,938	602
2014	1,059,799		5,558,964	1000	929,484	916	2,348,388	624
2015	838,392		5,641,908	1,021	931,668	923	2,353,257	631
2016	763,697		5,731,952	1,043	938,344	930	2,364,388	638
2017	726,575		5,826,123	1,063	947,130	936	2,360,395	646
2018	741,614 [■]		5,923,536 [◆]	1,089 [◆]	951,526 [◆]	945 [◆]	2,359,425 [◆]	663 [◆]
<i>Source</i>	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	902,193	256,187	199,120	19,019
2018 [■]	846,954	256,791	196,682	16,620
<i>Sources</i>	BEL	IMRSO	IMRSO	IMRSO

BEL: *Boletín de Estadísticas Laborales*.

IMRSO: Instituto de Mayores y Servicios Sociales.

* Benefits for orphans and dependent family members of deceased Social Security affiliates not included.

■ Data refer to January-October.

◆ Data refer to January-November.

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
2017	8.84	6.25	3,370	2,385
<i>Sources</i>	OECD	OECD	OECD	OECD

Ressources

	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
2016	1.9	0.8	3.3	0.6
2017		0.8		0.6
<i>Sources</i>	INCLASNS	INCLASNS	INCLASNS	INCLASNS

Satisfaction**Time on waiting list (days)**

	With the working of the health system	With medical history and tracing by family doctor or pediatrician	Non-urgent surgical procedures	First specialist consultations
2006	5.6	7.0	70	54
2008	6.4	7.0	71	59
2010	6.6	7.3	65	53
2012	6.6	7.5	76	53
2014	6.3	7.5	87	65
2015	6.4	7.5	89	58
2016	6.6	7.6	115	72
2017	6.7	7.5	106	66
<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

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	10,266	8,559	1,905	2,011	15.7	19.0	9,758	8,369	1,802
2018	10,491 [▪]	8,757 [▪]	1,708 [▪]	1,829 [▪]	14.0 [▪]	17.3 [▪]	10,053 [♦]	8,629 [♦]	1,942 [●]
Sources	LFS	LFS	LFS	LFS	LFS	LFS	BEL	BEL	BEL

BEL: *Boletín de Estadísticas Laborales*.

LFS: *Labour Force Survey*.

▪ Data refer to January-September.

♦ Data refer to January-November.

● Data refer to January-October.

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