

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 or political 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.

Section I. Spain in Europe

I.1. Lower employment gender gaps among higher educated people

I.2. Favourable position in children’s health and medical care

Section II. Public opinion trends

- Trust in voting as a means to influence politics

Section III. Follow-up social data

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

Section I. Spain in Europe

I.1. Lower employment gender gaps among higher educated people

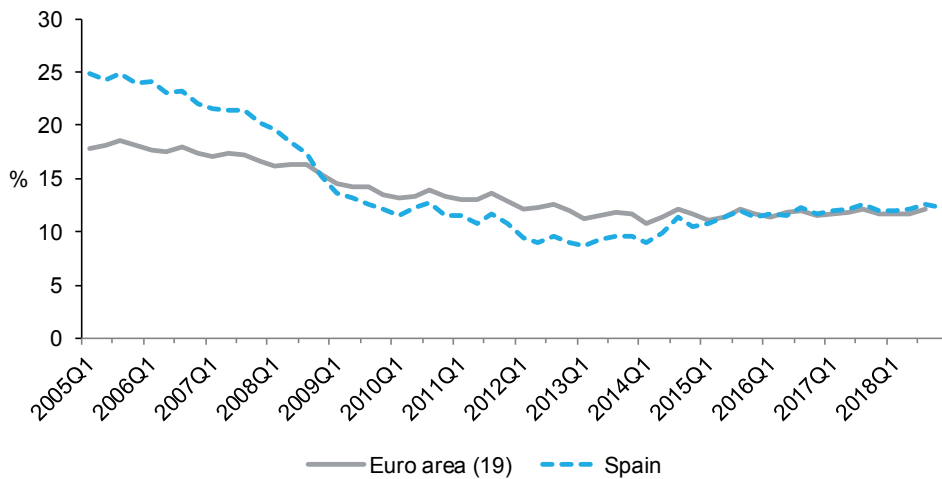
According to Labour Force Survey statistics (fourth trimester 2018), at the end of last year, the percentage of employed males aged 25 to 54 in Spain was 12 percentage points (pp) higher than the corresponding female percentage. More concretely, 81.5% (8.2 millions) of men and 69.3% (6.9 millions) of women in this age group were employed.

This employment gender gap is similar to those registered in the euro area since the beginning of 2015. Even though in 2005 the employment gender gap was significantly higher in Spain (25 pp vs. 18 pp in the eurozone), it showed a positive evolution during the pre-crisis years and decreased since 2009. But this decline throughout the crisis was not motivated by an increase in

female employment, but rather by substantial losses in male occupation, the latter being much harder impacted by the burst of the housing bubble. In fact, the gender gap was smallest in 2013, when male employment beat female employment by only 9 pp, 2 pp below the euro area average. But with the beginning of the economic recovery in 2014 male employment began to grow more than female employment, thus widening again the employment gender gap (Figure I.1).

It is noteworthy that the evolution displayed in Figure I.1 conceals significant differences across education levels. As shown in Figure I.2, the employment gender gap for people between 25 and 54 years has been constantly higher (in Spain as well as in the euro area) among the less qualified. During the period of economic expansion, the employment rate of males with lower secondary education or less in Spain reached 85%, while the female employment in this group oscillated around 50%. The male rate plummeted to roughly 60% during the more critical years of the economic crisis, while the female rate did not fall below 47%, thus narrowing the gender gap. Yet, in the second half of 2018, with 73.8% of male and 52.9% of

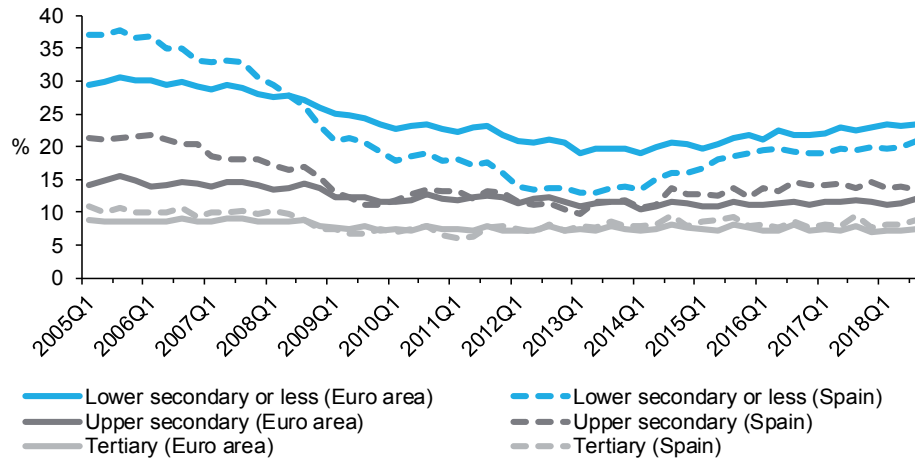
Figure I.1
Employment gender gap (25-54 years old) in Spain and the euro area (2005-2018)



Note: Latest data correspond to the fourth trimester of 2018.
Source: European Labour Force Survey [lfsq_egan] [lfsq_pgaed].

Figure I.2

Employment gender gaps (25-54 years old) by education level in Spain and the euro area (2005-2018)



Note: Latest data correspond to the third trimester of 2018.

Source: European Labour Force Survey [lfsi_educ_q].

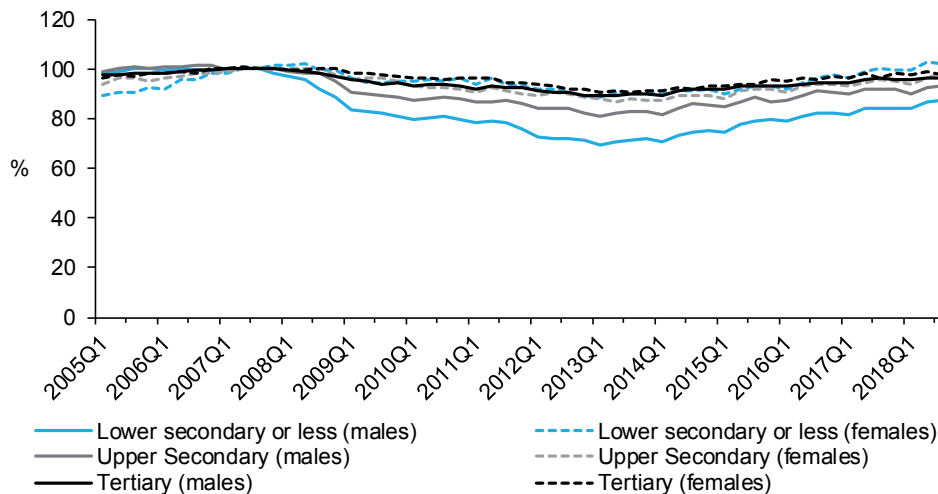
female employment, the gender gap reached 21 pp in this less qualified group.

Perhaps because female employment in Spain suffered less during the crisis, it has also managed to recover to pre-crisis levels more

rapidly. Taking the third trimester of 2007 as the onset of the economic crisis, Figure I.3 shows that women aged 25-54 in all education groups have regained the employment rates they had prior to the crisis. The same is only true for males with tertiary education.

Figure I.3

Employment rate evolution by gender and education (third trimester 2007 = 100), Spain (2005-2018)



Note: Latest data correspond to the third trimester of 2018.

Source: European Labour Force Survey [lfsi_educ_q].

Precisely in this highest education group, the employment gender gap is smallest. In the second half of 2018, the employment rates of males and females with tertiary education were 88.5% and 79.7%, respectively, the gender gap amounting to around 9 pp. In fact, the employment gender gap among the highest qualified people has remained below 10 pp since 2008, in line with the eurozone average. This remarkable stability suggests that the employment gender gap among higher educated people is less sensitive to the economic cycle than that of lower educated people, but it also hints at the likely existence of structural obstacles to its improvement.

In sum, the higher the education level, the lower is the employment gender gap. Gender inequality in employment is primarily concentrated among less qualified people. Still, even among higher educated groups, the employment gender gap seems to be significant and enduring, likely a result of a combination of various factors.

I.2. Favourable position in children's health and medical care

Healthy children represent an outstanding social attribute of the European Union. According to recently published statistics by Eurostat, 96% of children under 16 living in EU(28) countries in 2017 are considered to be in good or very good health (as reported by a household member). Less than 1% are said to be in bad or very bad health, and 3% in fair health. Consequently, limitations in children's activities due to health problems are scarce. Less than 4% of children suffer moderate limitations, while slightly more than 1% report severe limitations.

Data for Spain show the country's favourable position in these indicators: 98% of children living in Spain are in good or very good health, less than 1% are impaired by severe limitations

Figure I.4

Children's health and limitations in activities due to health problems (as reported by a household member), European Union and Spain (2017)

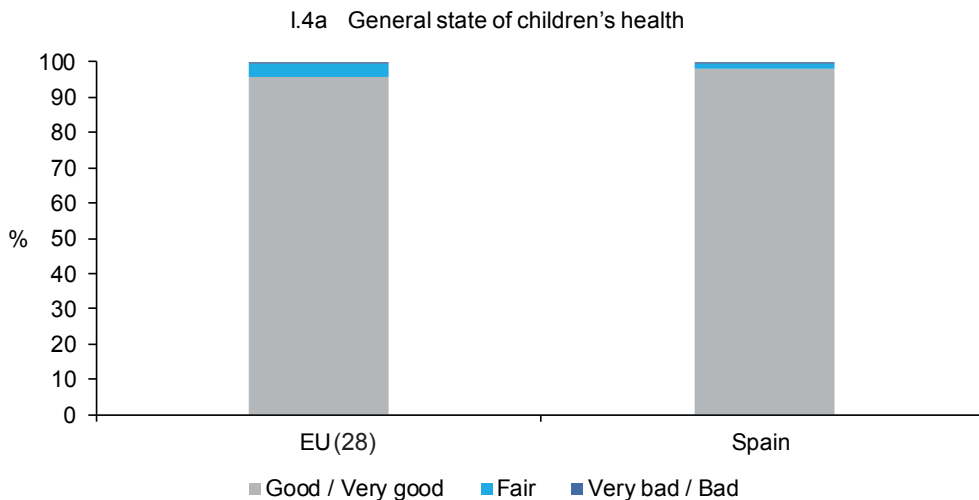
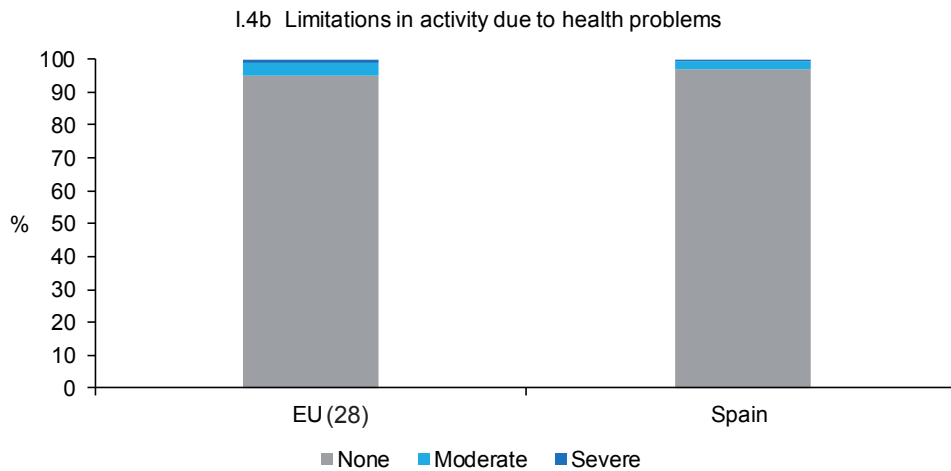


Figure I.4 (Continued)

Children’s health and limitations in activities due to health problems (as reported by a household member), European Union and Spain (2017)



Source: Eurostat [ilc_hch12].

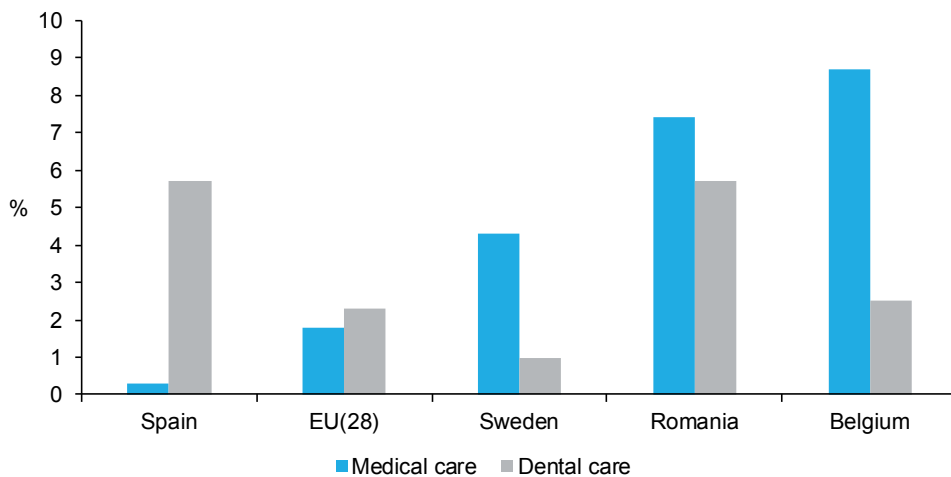
in activities due to health problems, while 2% report moderate limitations (Figure I.4).

Spain also exhibits positive figures regarding the share of children with unmet medical examination

or treatment needs (Figure I.5). Only 0.3% of children experience this unsatisfactory situation, one sixth of the EU(28) average (1.8%) and far less than corresponding percentages for countries like Belgium (8.7%), Romania (7.4%)

Figure I.5

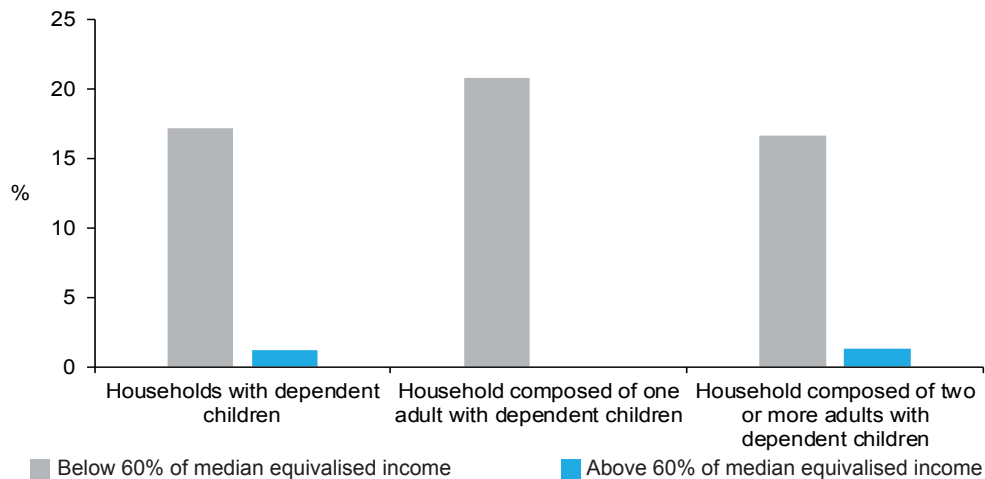
Children with unmet medical examination or treatment needs and dental care needs (as reported by a household member), European Union and Spain (2017)



Source: Eurostat [ilc_hch14].

Figure I.6

Children with unmet dental care needs by household composition and household income, Spain (2017)



Source: Eurostat [ilc_hch14].

or Sweden (4.3%). Even in Spanish rural areas, where healthcare provision is usually not as widely available as in cities, towns and suburbs, the share of children with unmet needs for medical care (0.9%) is well below the EU(28) average (2.4%) and much lower than in other European countries (Belgium: 11%, Romania: 9.7%, Sweden: 5.0%).

However, Spain fares worse as regards children’s needs for dental care (Figure I.5). Children aged under sixteen with unmet dental care needs represent 5.7%, more than double the EU (28) average (2.3%). The lack of provision of needed child dental care affects one out of every ten children (9.8%) living in households with only one adult, nearly doubling the share in households where children live with two or more adults (5.4%).

Yet, the main explanatory variable of these differences is not household composition, but household income. Approximately one fifth of children living with only one adult in households below 60% of median equivalent income have

unmet dental care needs (20.8%), while when this same type of household is above 60% of median equivalent income, no child appears to be deprived of necessary dental care. For households in which children live with two or more adults, the corresponding percentages are 16.6% (below 60% of median equivalent income) and 1.3% (above 60% median equivalent income).

In sum, children living in Spain enjoy good health and have adequate access to medical care quite independently of household income and place of residence. But the satisfaction of their dental care needs is worse than in other European Union countries and depends much more on household income.

Section II. Public opinion trends

Trust in voting as a means to influence politics

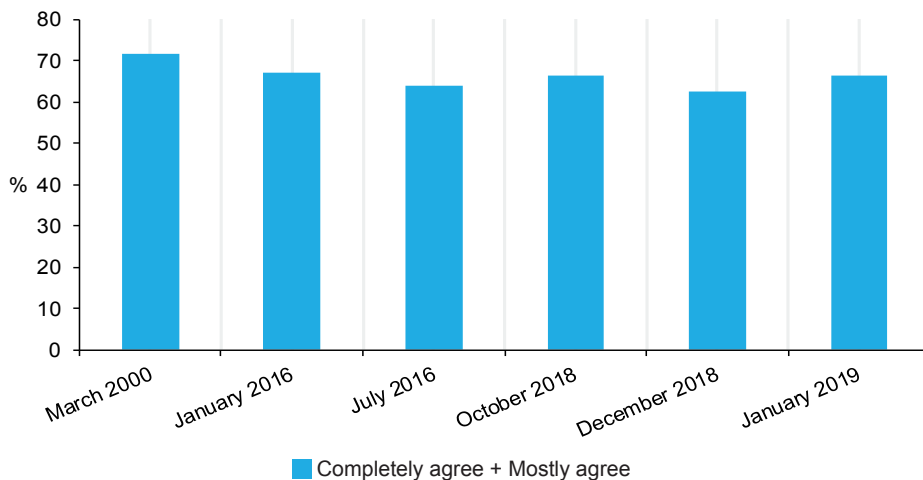
Just a few weeks ahead of April, 28th, the day in which general elections will be held in Spain, seven out of ten Spaniards aged 18 or more manifest confidence in voting as a means to influence politics. This share has remained relatively stable in recent years (Figure II.1) and matches approximately electoral participation data in the last three general elections (2011: 69%; 2015: 70%; 2016: 67%). Moreover, support for voting as a means to influence politics does not show significant differences across gender or age.

Yet, this answer challenges to some extent other public opinion results about the main reason for

voting in elections. Actually, a majority of citizens (44%) go to the polls because they regard voting as a right, although a significant part (27%) does it because it conceives of voting as a duty (Figure II.2), the latter view being more widespread among elderly. Fewer people (15%) mention the selection of political leaders or the prerequisite to protest afterwards (3%) as their main reason for voting, thus suggesting that the formal dimension of elections (right and duty) prevails over their instrumental dimension (selection and censure).

Figure II.1

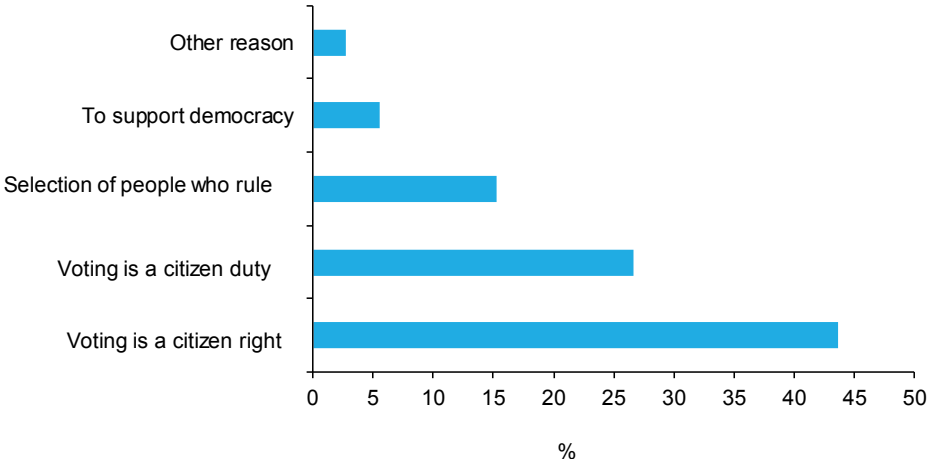
Perceived influence of the vote in politics



Question: "Please, tell me to what extent do you completely agree, mostly agree, mostly disagree or absolutely disagree with the following statement: 'People like me can exert through the vote an influence on what goes on in politics'".

Source: Opinion barometers 3126, 3145, 3226, 3234, 3238 and 3240, Center for Sociological Research (Centro de Investigaciones Sociológicas: www.cis.es).

Figure II.2
Main reasons to vote in elections (January 2019)



Question: "Which is your main reason for voting in elections? It is a right I have as a citizen / It is the duty of citizens / The possibility to select the people who rule / To be able to protest afterwards / To support democracy".

Source: Opinion barometer 3238, 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	80.3	85.8	52.9	28.4	13.2	534,574	33.4
2017	46,572,132	42.9	18.8	80.4	85.7	53.2	28.8	13.3	637,375	39.3
2018	46,722,980	43.1	19.1			53.6	29.3	13.7		
Sources	EPC	EPC	EPC	ID INE	ID INE	EPC	EPC	EPC	EVR	EVR

EPC: *Estadística del Padrón Continuo*.

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	18,581	2.51		
Sources	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*.

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	20.5	6.4	29.2	42.4
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	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		
Source	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
Sources	MECD	INE

LFS: *Labour Force Survey.*

MECD: *Ministerio de Educación, Cultura y Deporte.*

INE: *Instituto Nacional de Estadística.*

• Provisional data.

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	1,000	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	751,172	5,929,471	1,091	951,838	946	2,359,931	664	
2019 [■]	859,155	6,000,191	1,130	954,031	971	2,361,540	707	
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	902,193	256,187	199,120	19,019
2018	853,437	256,842	196,375	16,472
2019 [■]	920,813	257,043	194,987	15,671
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 not included.

■ Data refer to January.

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	10,532	8,795	1,675	1,805	13.7	17.0	10,058	8,643	1,947
2019 ^a							10,064	8,667	1,955
<i>Sources</i>	LFS	LFS	LFS	LFS	LFS	LFS	BEL	BEL	BEL

BEL: *Boletín de Estadísticas Laborales*.

LFS: *Labour Force Survey*.

^a Data refer to January.

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