

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

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

Section I. Spain in Europe

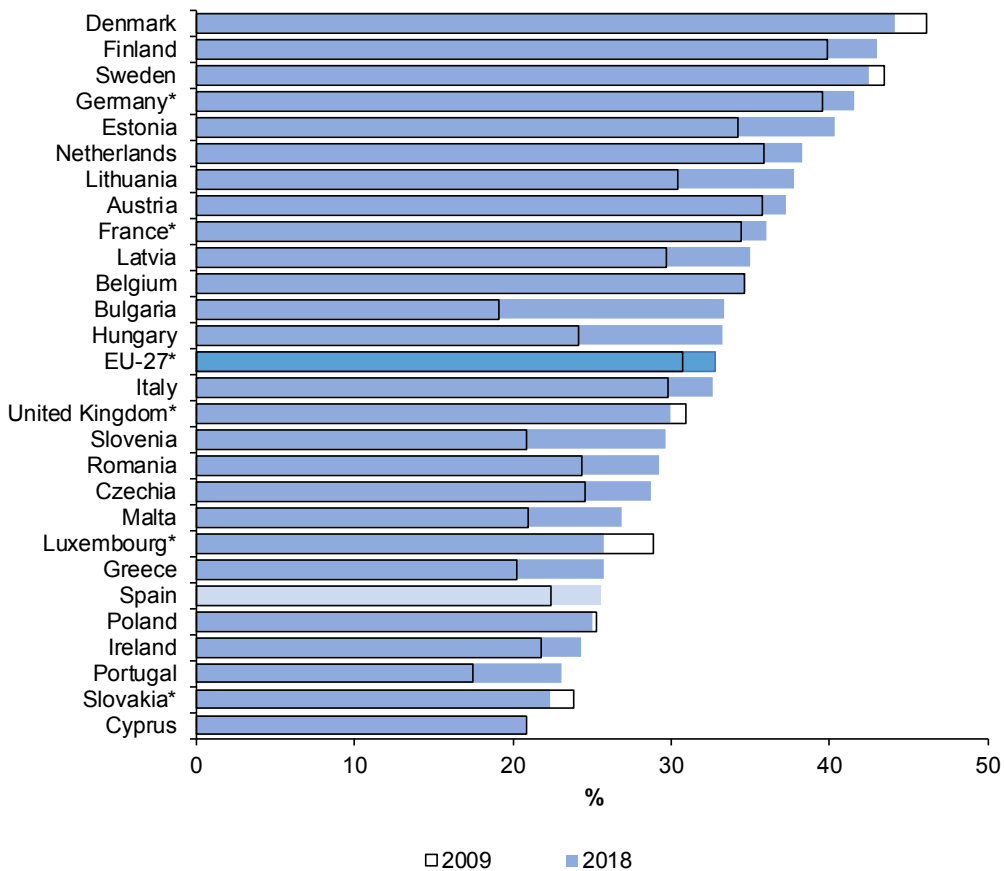
I.1. Single person households: less than in Northern and Central European countries, but on the rise

Living in a one-person household is neither a necessary nor a sufficient condition for loneliness. (In fact, one can feel alone in a multi-person

household, and also feel accompanied while living alone.) Still, the rise of single person households tends to be associated with isolation and solitude, which are said to be mounting social problems of our century.

True, the proportion of private households of single adults without children shows an increasing trend in the European Union (EU). In 2017, this type of household represented 32.8% of all households in the EU(27), two percentage points more than in 2009 (Fig. I.1). Although the increase can be observed in single households inhabited

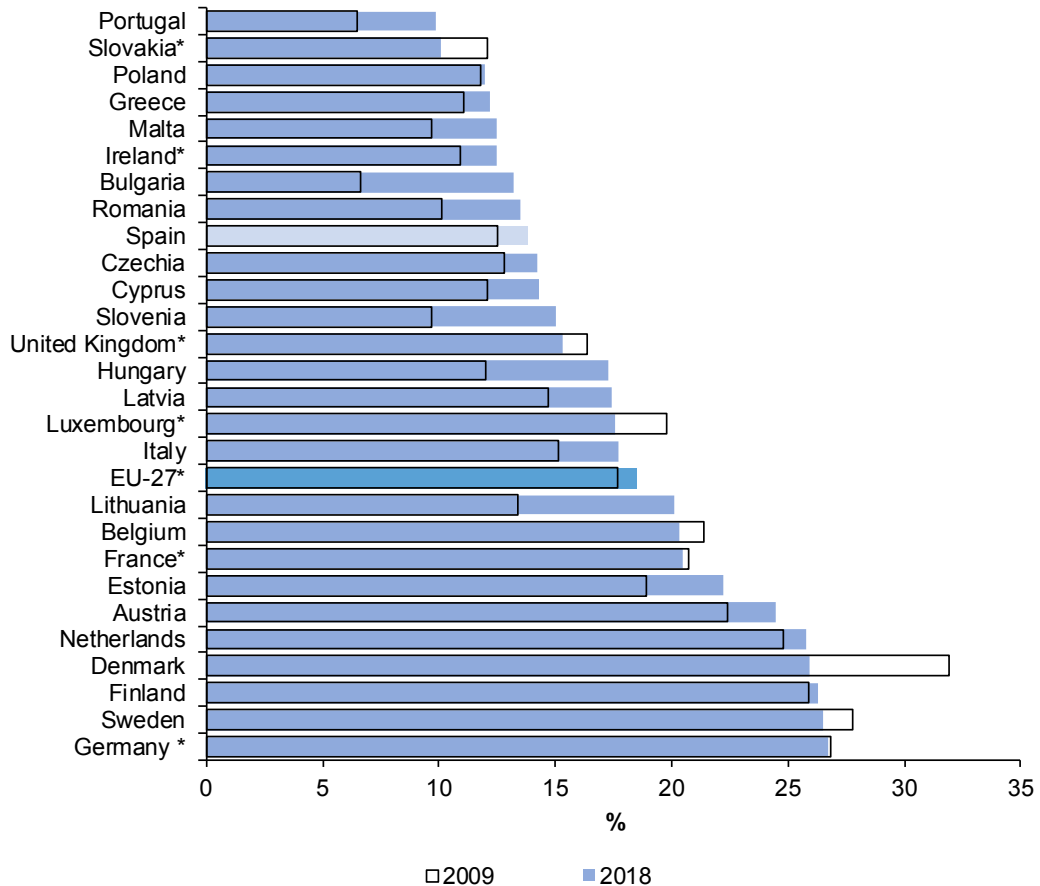
Figure I.1
Single person households in EU countries (2009 and 2018)



* Last available data from 2017.

Source: Eurostat [ilc_lvph02].

Figure I.2

Single person households of one adult younger than 65 years in EU countries (2009 and 2018)

* Last available data from 2017.

Source: Eurostat [ilc_lvph02].

by people aged 65 and older as well as in those of people under 65, it has been higher among the latter group.

Single person households in Spain have increased from 22.4% in 2009 to 25.5% in 2018. However, Spain remains in the group of countries with comparatively low proportions of single person households. By contrast, the Nordic countries lead the group of nations with the highest percentages of this type of household in

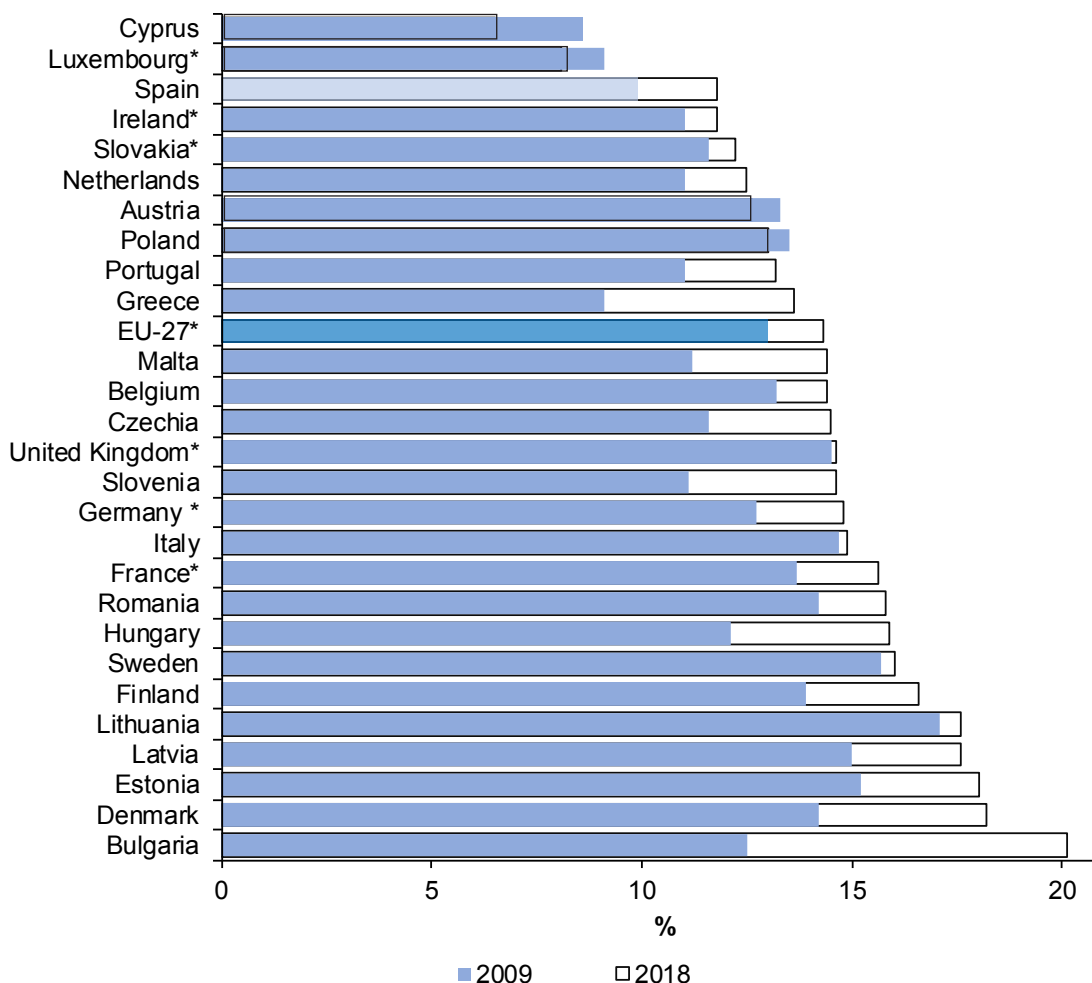
2018 (Denmark: 44.1%; Finland: 43.0%; Sweden: 42.5%), followed by Germany (41.5%).¹

It is noteworthy that such big disparities across countries are to a great extent due to differences in the proportion of single households of people younger than 65. Thus, in some Central and Northern European countries (Germany, The Netherlands, Austria, Sweden, Finland and Denmark) at least one out of every four households is inhabited by a single person younger than 65. In contrast, the proportion

¹ The last available data for Germany are from 2017.

Figure I.3

Single person households of one adult 65 years or older in EU countries (2009 and 2018)



* Last available data from 2017.

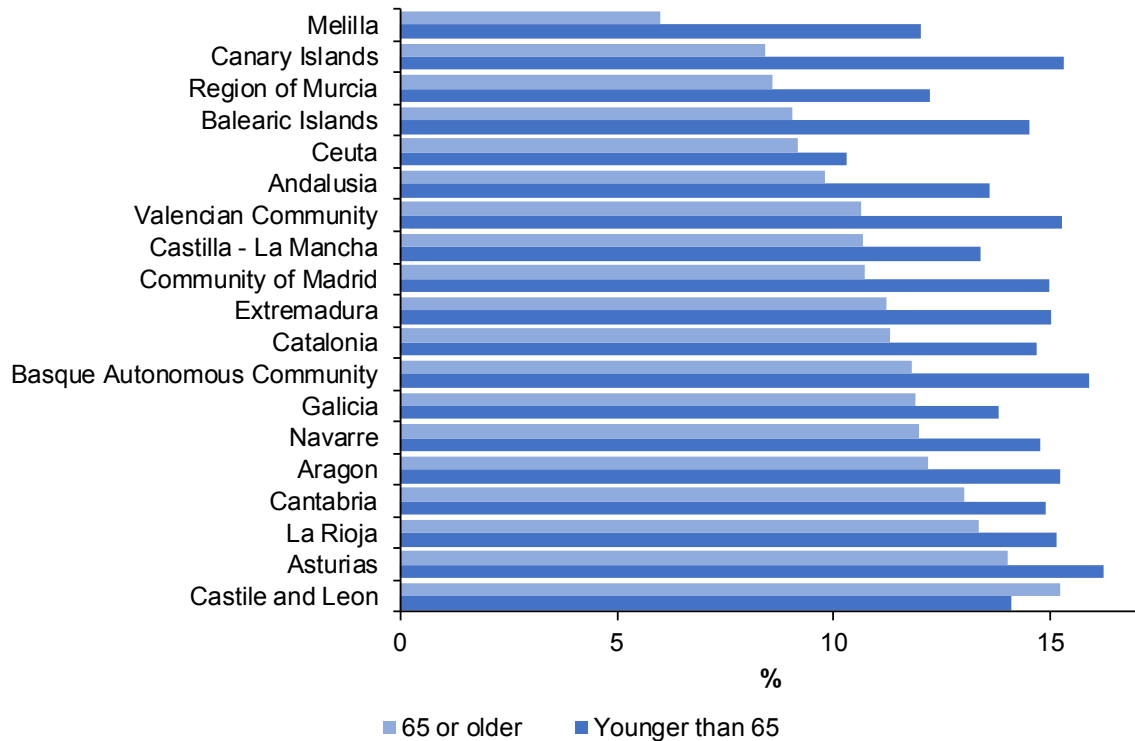
Source: Eurostat [ilc_lvph02].

of this type of household in Portugal, Greece and Spain ranks between 10% and 14% (Fig. I.2). Cross-national differences in the proportion of single households of people aged 65 and older are still relevant, but less significant (Fig. I.3).

As regards Spain, the proportion of single households varies across autonomous communities. The autonomous communities with the highest

proportion of single households are Asturias (30.2%), Castile and Leon (29.3%) and La Rioja (28.5%). Conversely, the Region of Murcia (20.8%), together with both autonomous cities, Ceuta (19.5%) and Melilla (18.0%) display the lowest proportions. In all autonomous communities, except for Castile and Leon, the proportion of single households of people younger than 65 is higher than that of elderly people (Fig. I.4).

Figure I.4

Single person households in Spain by autonomous communities (2018)

Source: Encuesta Continua de Hogares, INE.

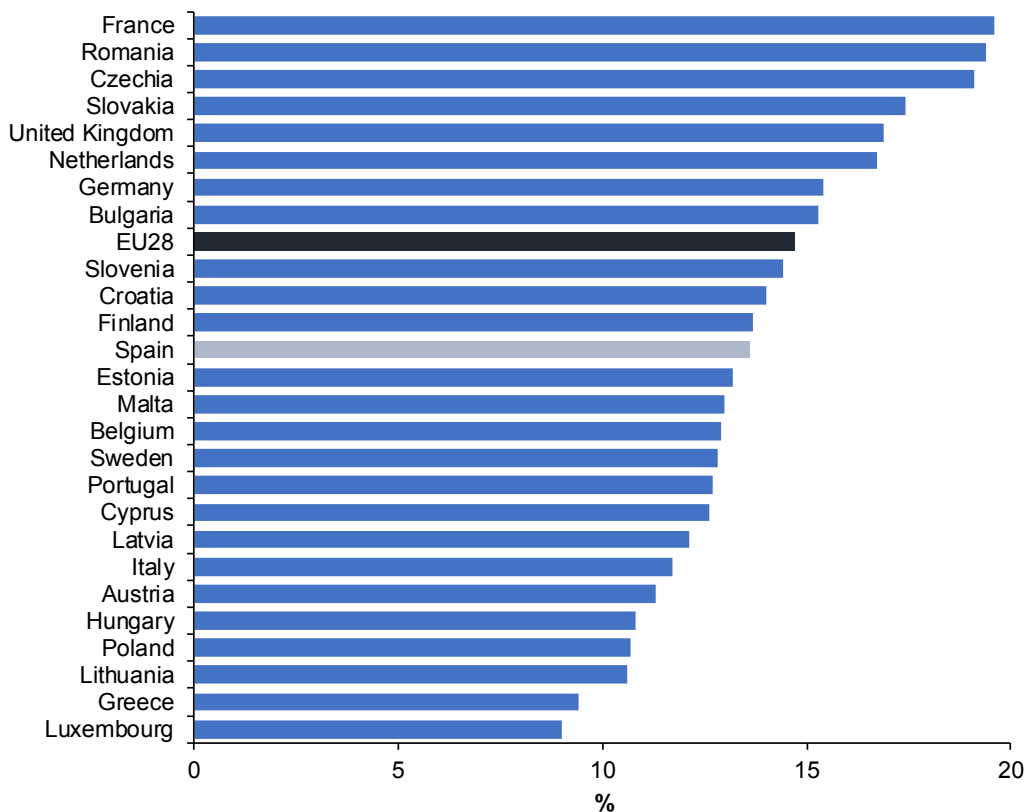
I.2. Primary education: a better pupil-teacher ratio than the EU average

The ratio of pupil per teacher represents an indicator frequently used to ascertain the quality of an educational system. This rationale is based on a twofold assumption: (a) the fewer the pupils per teacher, the better educational goals can be achieved; (b) educational systems strive to reduce the ratio of pupils per teacher, so that the indicator also reflects the will of governments to provide good education. While these are sensible assumptions, it should be noted that the first simplifies a complex issue (the importance

of teachers' quantity and quality), whereas the second tends to overlook changes in population (for example, a rapid increase in pupils' cohorts) that may abruptly alter the indicator during short periods of time, thus perhaps hinting more at the state's capacity to swiftly adapt to demographic changes than at political will.

These caveats notwithstanding, the ratio of pupils per teacher provides important information about the situation of children at school and the burden borne by teachers. Focusing on primary education in the European Union, significant differences in the ratio of pupils per teacher are observable. Thus, Luxembourg's and Greece's primary school teachers have to tutor on average half of the children that Romania's or France's teachers

Figure I.5

Number of pupils per teacher in primary education (European Union, 2017)

Source: Eurostat [educ_uae_perp04].

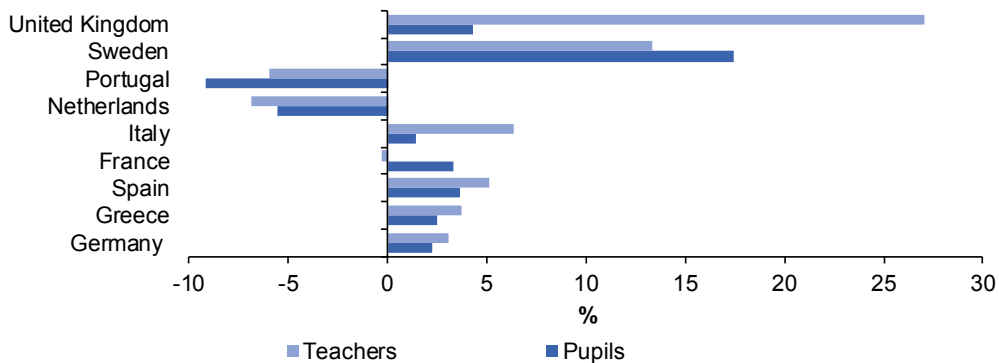
educate (Fig. I.5). To be sure, even the European countries with higher pupils per teacher ratios are below the world average (23.6 according to the World Bank).

With 13.6 primary school pupils per teacher, Spain ranks better than the European Union average (14.7). In fact, Spanish governments have done a considerable effort in recent years to avert the increase in this ratio. As in Italy, Greece and Germany, the percentage increase in the number of primary school teachers in Spain between 2013 and 2017 (5%) has been higher than the percentage increase in the number of pupils (4%). Instead, in France, the number of teachers practically remained stable in a period of intensive growth in pupils' numbers (Fig. I.6).

Differences among Spanish autonomous communities are also significant. Madrid, Andalusia and Catalonia (as well as the autonomous cities of Ceuta and Melilla) show ratios between 14 and 16, while the corresponding ratios for Extremadura and Castile and Leon are below 11 (Fig. I.7). Definitely, the average fertility rates between 2005 and 2011 (the birth years that correspond to children who in 2017 were primary school pupils) were in those autonomous communities with higher pupil-teacher ratios (Madrid, Andalusia, Catalonia, Ceuta and Melilla) above the Spanish average, while in those autonomous communities with lower ratios (Extremadura and Castile and Leon) fertility rates were below the national average.

Figure I.6

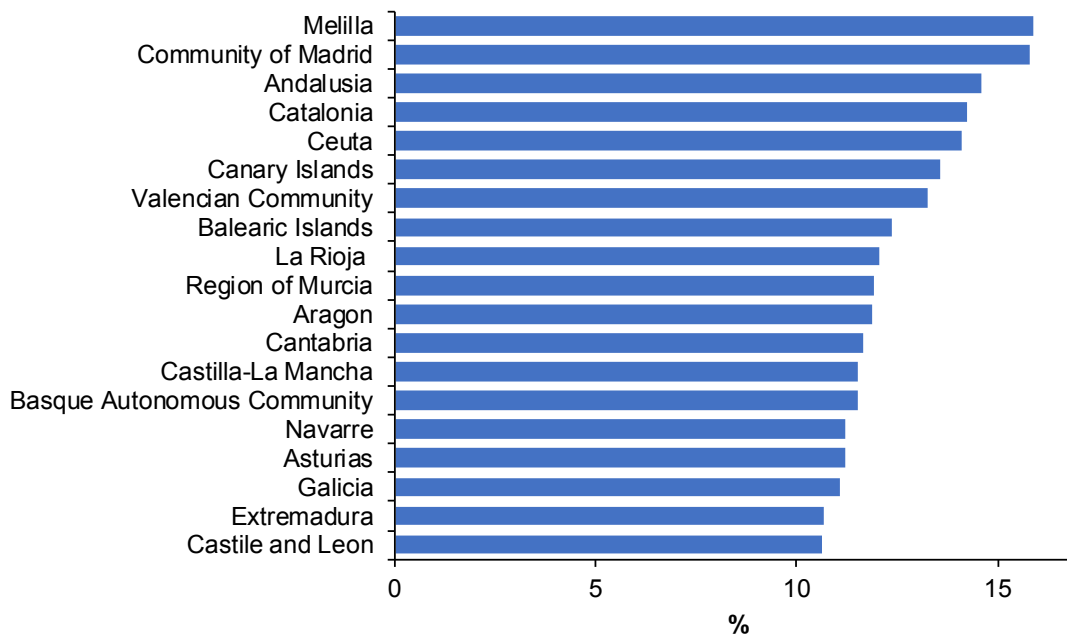
Percentage growth in the number of teachers and pupils in primary education (from 2013 to 2017) in selected European countries



Source: Eurostat [educ_uoe_perp01].

Figure I.7

Number of pupils per teacher in primary education by autonomous communities (Spain, 2017)



Source: Ministerio de Educación y Formación Profesional (Sistema estatal de indicadores de la educación, 2018).

Section II. Public opinion trends

Higher public dissatisfaction with politics than with economics

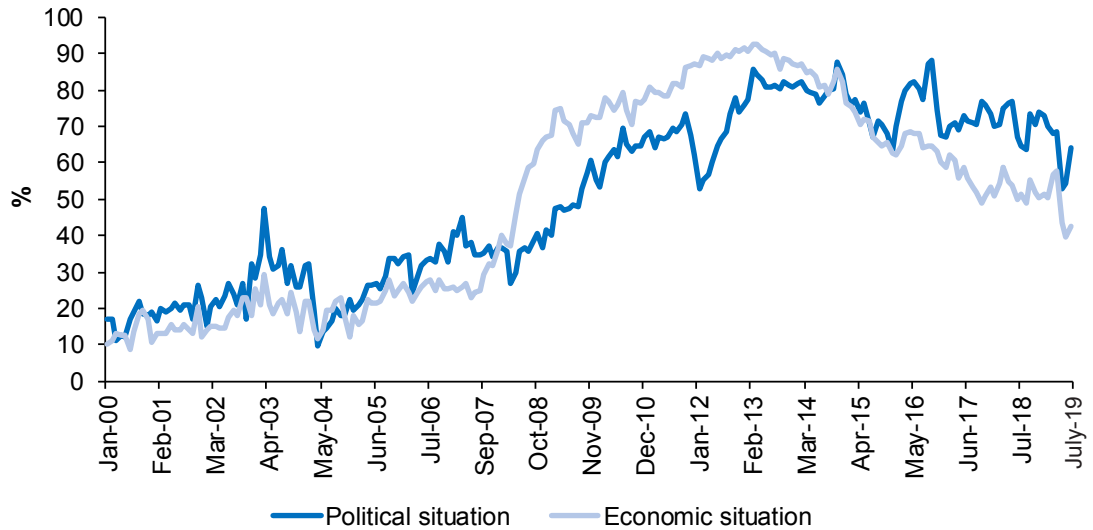
The Center for Sociological Research (CIS) asks each month a representative sample of Spaniards how they evaluate the economic and political situation of the country. Figure II.1 shows the evolution of negative opinions between January 2000 and July 2019, and allows for the identification of four broad phases:

- (1) From the beginning of 2000 to the spring of 2007, adverse opinions about the economic and political situation were relatively restrained, oscillating between 10% (at the beginning of the century) to 35%, with two peaks in the political curve around March 2003 (Iraq invasion, with Spain being part of the coalition of allies) and March 2007 (massive demonstrations in Spanish cities against rising housing prices).
- (2) From summer 2007 to the initial months of 2013, negative opinions about the political and the economic situation soared to 80-90%, with economic malaise taking the lead and apparently driving political dissatisfaction.
- (3) From spring 2013 to the start of 2016, disapproving opinions showed a downward trend, reflecting the change in the economic cycle, even though they did not fall below 60%.
- (4) From the initial months of 2016 to the summer of 2019, criticism of the economic situation maintained its descending trend with some fluctuations, while disapproval of the political situation escalated.

The elections of December 20, 2015, from which a highly-fragmented, multi-party system emerged, delinked the evolution of both curves. Party conflict and governmental instability have prevailed since these elections and driven an increase in negative opinions about the political situation. According to the latest data (July 2019), nearly two thirds of the Spanish population (64.2%) aged 18 or above describe the political situation as bad or very bad. The share of people who describe the economic situation in the same critical terms is 20 percentage points lower (44.2%).

Figure II.1

Negative opinions (“very bad” + “bad”) about the economic and the political situation in Spain (2000-2019)



Questions: “To begin with, as regards the general economic situation in Spain, how would you consider it: very good, good, moderate, bad or very bad?”; “And regarding the general political situation in Spain, how would you consider it: very good, good, moderate, bad or very bad?”

Source: CIS, Public opinion barometers (January 2000-July 2019).

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) (%)
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	760,804	25.8
2019*	47,007,367	43.4	19.3			53.6	29.6	14.3		
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.

* Provisional data.

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 (%)
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	14.3	11.5
2019■	18,665	2.52		
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 (%)
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
2018	6.9●	6.4●				1.67
<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 (%)
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		
2018	31.0	1.19	1.63			
<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).

● Provisional data.

■ Data refer to January-June.

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 (%)
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
2019■	19.6	6.6	30.0	44.3
<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)
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	1,767,179	676,311	667,984	1,287,791	209,754
2018●	1,747,374	667,426	677,083	1,293,892	214,528
<i>Source</i>	MECD	MECD	MECD	MECD	MECD

Education expenditure

	Public expenditure (thousands of €)	Public expenditure (% GDP)
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
2017	49,458,049	4.24
<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-June.

Table III.4

Social protection: Benefits**Contributory benefits***

	Unemployment		Retirement		Permanent disability		Widowhood	
	Total		Total	Average amount (€)	Total	Average amount (€)	Total	Average amount (€)
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	751,172		5,929,471	1,091	951,838	946	2,359,931	664
2019■	776,846		6,017,987	1,135	955,806	973	2,359,976	710
<i>Source</i>	BEL		BEL	BEL	BEL	BEL	BEL	BEL

Non-contributory benefits

	Social Security			
	Unemployment	Retirement	Disability	Other
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■	906,432	258,968	194,191	15,309
<i>Sources</i>	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 not included.

■ Data refer to January-July.

Table III. 5

Social protection: Health care**Expenditure**

	Total (% GDP)	Public (% GDP)	Total expenditure (\$ per inhabitant)	Public expenditure (\$ per inhabitant)
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
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	1.9	0.8	3.4	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
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
2018	6.6	7.5		
<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	10,674 [•]	8,963 [•]	1,552 [•]	1,740 [•]	12,7 [•]	16,3 [•]	10,286 [•]	8,863 [•]	2,075 [♦]
Sources	LFS	LFS	LFS	LFS	LFS	LFS	BEL	BEL	BEL

BEL: *Boletín de Estadísticas Laborales*.

LFS: *Labour Force Survey*.

▪ Data refer to January-June.

• Data refer to January-August.

♦ Data refer to January-July.

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