

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.

Section I. Spain in Europe

- I.1. Towards completing the Europe 2020’s tertiary education target
- I.2. More than half of social protection spending for old age

Section II. Public opinion trends

- Increasing concern about pensions, particularly among elderly people

Section III. Follow-up social data

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

Section I. Spain in Europe

I.1. Towards completing the Europe 2020's tertiary education target

According to the Europe 2020 education headline targets,¹ by the end of this decade, at least 40% of 30 to 34 year-old people in the European Union (EU) should have completed tertiary education. Since the start of the century, the increase in this indicator at the EU level has been significant: from 2000 to 2017, it grew by about 18 percentage points, so that in the latter year the target was almost reached (39.9%). It should be noted that by 2017 the percentage of women aged 30-34 with tertiary education was 10 percentage points higher

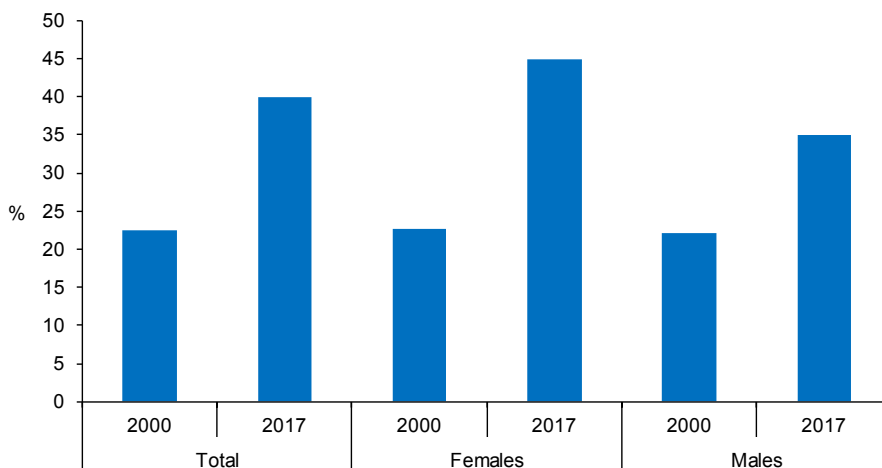
than the equivalent figure for males (44.9% vs. 34.9%). In 2000, both percentages were very close, with a slightly higher figure for females: 22.7% vs. 22.2% (Figure I.1).

Levels of completed tertiary education differ considerably across European member states. More than half of people aged 30 to 34 living in Lithuania, Cyprus, Luxembourg and Sweden had attained tertiary education in 2017, whereas corresponding proportions in Italy and Romania were around one quarter (26.9% and 26.3%, respectively). With 41.2%, Spain ranks 17th among all EU countries in this indicator (Figure I.2).

Although the Spanish figure is higher than the target agreed upon for the whole EU, it is lower than the target specifically established for the country (44%). In contrast to other European member states (among them, the Nordic

Figure I.1

People aged 30-34 with tertiary education by gender (European Union average, 2000 and 2017)



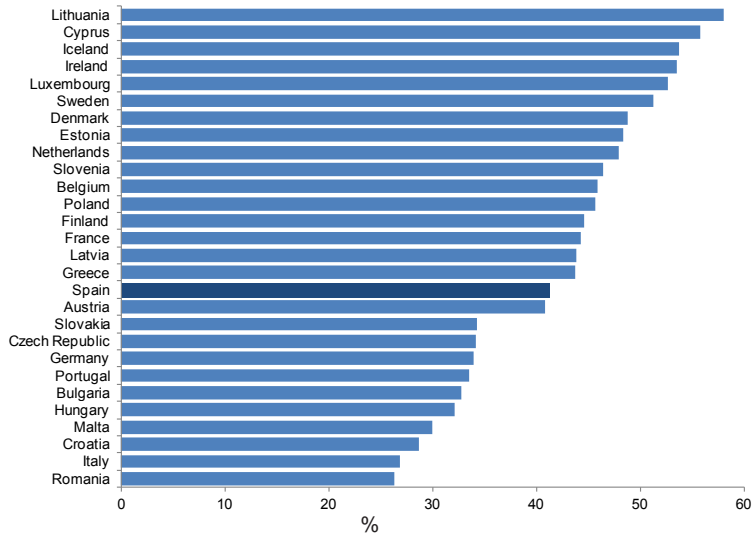
Note: The 2017 data include Croatia.

Source: Eurostat [edat_ifse_03].

¹ "Europe 2020" is the name of the EU strategy whose main aim is to promote sustainable growth and employment. It has been designed to prepare the EU economic structure for the near future. As regards education, the Europe 2020 strategy sets out two targets to be achieved until the end of this decade: Increasing the share of the population aged 30 to 34 having completed tertiary or equivalent education to at least 40% and reducing the share of early leavers of education and training to less than 10%.

Figure I.2

People aged 30-34 with tertiary education (European Union countries, 2017)



Source: Eurostat [edat_ifse_03].

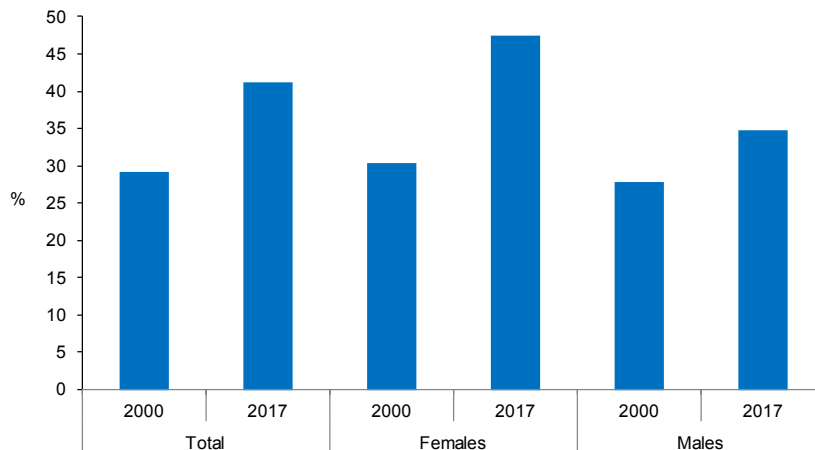
countries and The Netherlands), Spain has not reached its own target yet, but it seems likely that it will achieve it by 2020. Moreover, gender differences are very remarkable in Spain: in 2017, 47.5% of women aged 30 to 34 had attained tertiary education, while men in the same age group exhibited a percentage nearly

13 points lower (34.8%). This gender gap in favor of women was in 2000 about 3 percentage points (30.4% vs. 27.9%) (Figure I.3).

Tertiary education correlates with higher employment rates. In all European countries, the percentage of employed people aged 30 to 34 with

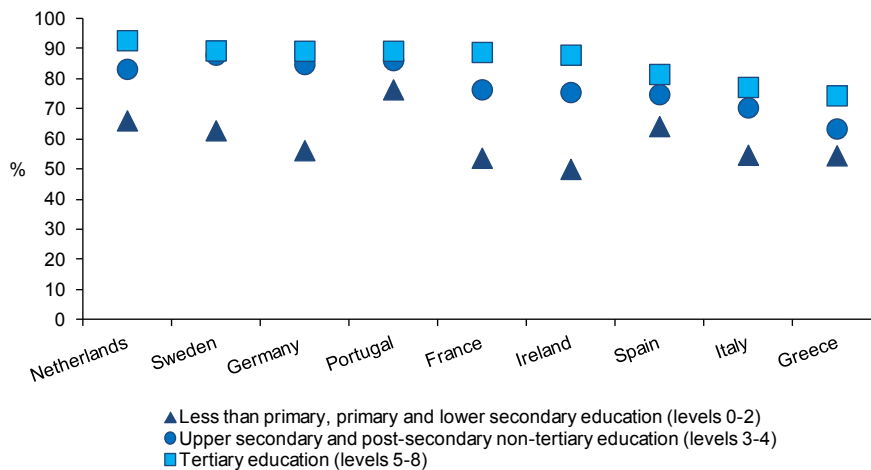
Figure I.3

People aged 30-34 with tertiary education by gender (Spain, 2000 and 2017)



Source: Eurostat [edat_ifse_03].

Figure I.4

Employment rates of people aged 30-34 by educational level (2017)

Source: Eurostat [fsa_ergaed].

tertiary education is higher than the percentages of less educated people of the same age group (Figure I.4). But the rationale of the tertiary education target goes beyond employment. It is, to some extent, deemed a signal of combined social and economic progress. Thus, the increase in this indicator in a specific country is generally perceived as an overall advantage. Yet, the importance of such an indicator is relative. For example, Germany, the first economy in the EU and the fifth in the ranking of the Global Competitiveness Report (2017-2018) of the World Economic Forum, achieves a modest result in this indicator: in 2017, 34% of German people aged 30 to 34 had completed tertiary education (7 percentage points less than in Spain), the difference between males (33.8%) and females (34.2%) being negligible.

I.2. More than half of social protection spending for old age

Recently released Eurostat statistics show that public spending on social protection in 2016 represented 39% of total government

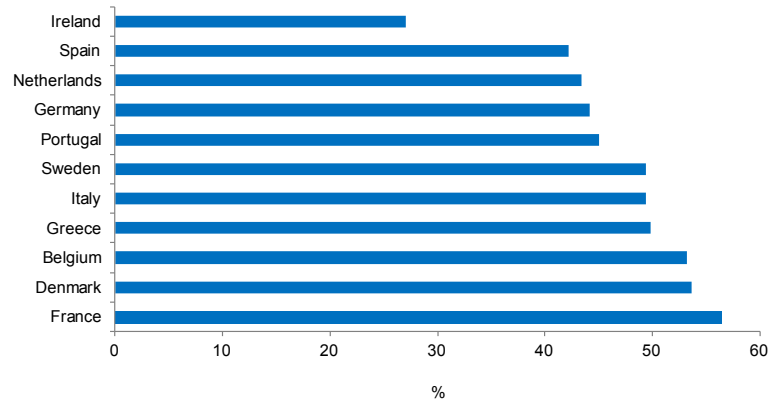
expenditure in Spain. This percentage was lower than in Germany (44%), Denmark (44%), France (43%), Italy (43%) and Sweden (42%). Moreover, all of these countries exhibited higher levels of government expenditure than Spain in 2016 (Figure I.5).

In contrast, Spanish public spending on social protection as a share of total government expenditure was similar to that registered in The Netherlands (37%), a country whose level of government expenditure in terms of GDP is comparable to Spain's (Figure I.6). In both countries (as well as in Belgium and Portugal), around four out of every ten euros of public outlays were devoted to transfers aimed at alleviating citizens' financial burden as regards several risks and needs.

In all European countries, the bulk of social protection spending is devoted to old age. Generally speaking, one can say that the bigger the proportion of social protection spending absorbed by old age, the stronger the welfare state is tilted towards the elderly.

The share of social protection spending devoted towards old age in Spain is 55%. However, this percentage underestimates the

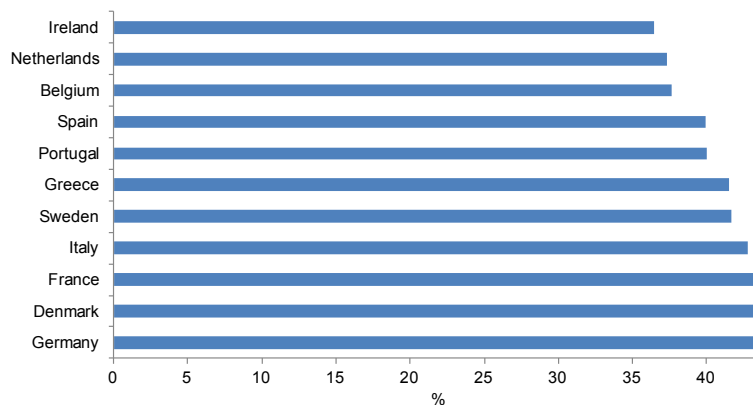
Figure I.5

Total general government expenditure as a percentage of GDP (2016)*

Note: * Eurostat has already released data for 2017, but we use 2016 data for the sake of comparison (see Figures I.6 and I.7).

Source: Eurostat [gov_10a_exp].

Figure I.6

Public spending on social protection as a percentage of total government expenditure (selected European countries, 2016)

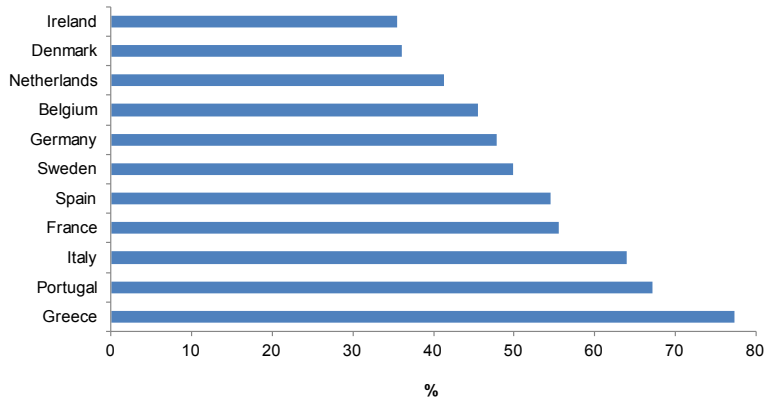
Source: Eurostat [gov_10a_exp].

old age bias of the Spanish welfare state, since the majority of Spanish survivors' pensions are granted to elderly women (whereby spending on survivors' pensions in terms of GDP in Spain is significantly higher than in other European countries: 2.3% of GDP, one point above the EU average).

Most European countries display lower percentages of social protection spending on old age than Spain, among them Sweden (50%), Germany (48%), Belgium (45%), The Netherlands (41%) and Denmark (36%). Nevertheless, the Spanish welfare state is less heavily skewed towards the elderly than the rest of the South European countries. Greece

Figure I.7

Public spending on old age as a percentage of total social protection expenditure (selected European countries, 2016)



Source: Eurostat [gov_10a_exp]..

concentrates more than three quarters (77%) of its social protection spending on old age, while Portugal's and Italy's transfers statistically classified as "old age" represent about two thirds of all social protection resources (Figure I.7).

Section II. Public opinion trends

Increasing concern about pensions, particularly among elderly people

Month after month since the beginning of this century, the Center for Sociological Research (Centro de Investigaciones Sociológicas, CIS) has presented the following open question to a representative sample of the Spanish population: "What is in your opinion the main problem currently existing in Spain? And the second? And the third?" Until the beginning of 2018, the percentage of Spanish citizens who cited pensions as one of the three main problems was consistently below 5%. Even though the pension debate has been, since the mid-90s, from time to time high on the public agenda, most people in Spain did not perceive pensions as a very problematic issue.

The situation has recently changed. In only one year (from April 2017 to April 2018) the percentage

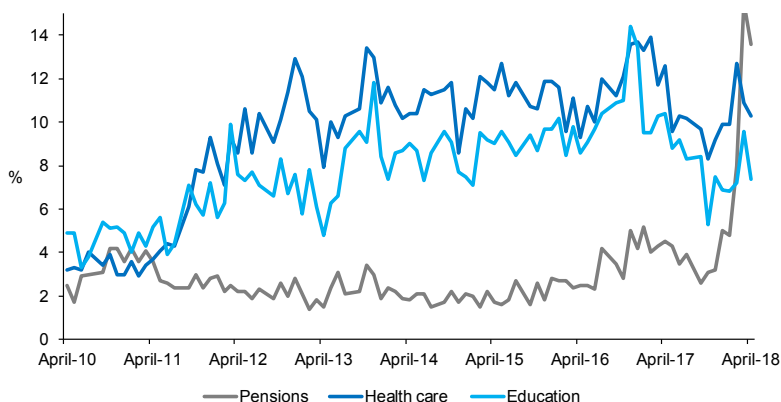
of people citing pensions as one of the three main problems in Spain has virtually tripled (from 5 to 14%). This change in opinion has been preceded by the increase of people thinking that too few resources are devoted to pensions and by growing discontent with pensions' management (see *Focus on Spanish Society*, March 2018).

As a matter of fact, in contrast to what has been common in the last decades (and particularly between 2010 and 2017), nowadays pensions elicit more concern among the Spanish population than health care and education (Figure II.1).

When focusing attention on the last available survey data (April 2018), substantial differences between age groups in the perception of pensions become obvious. Whereas less than 8% of interviewees younger than 55 consider pensions as one of the three main problems in Spain, the corresponding percentage is close to 15% among those aged 55 to 64, and it reaches 28% in the group of people 65 and older (Figure II.2). Among the latter group, pensions feature second, after unemployment, in the list of problems. When this same group is asked about the three issues they

Figure II.1

People considering health care, education or pensions as one of the three main problems in Spain (2010-2018)

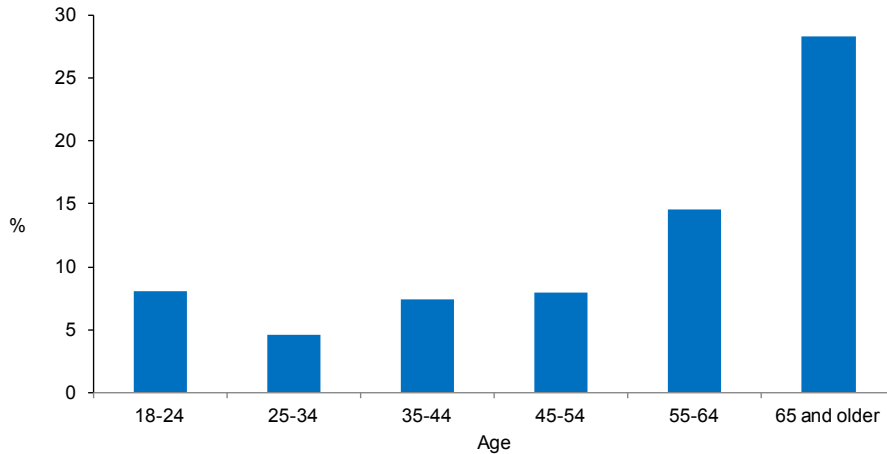


Question: "What is in your opinion the main problem currently existing in Spain? And the second? And the third?"

Source: Monthly opinion barometers of the Center for Sociological Research (Centro de Investigaciones Sociológicas: www.cis.es).

Figure II.2

People considering pensions as one of the three main problems in Spain by age (April 2018)



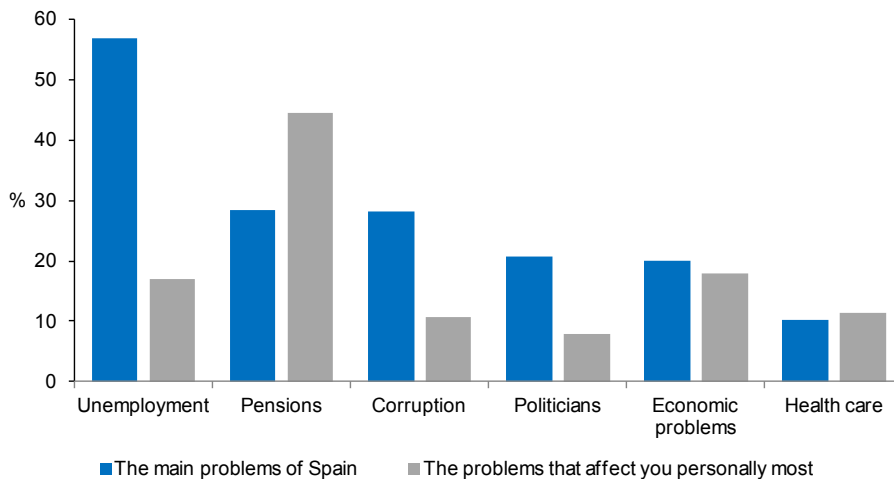
Question: "What is in your opinion the main problem currently existing in Spain? And the second? And the third?"
Source: Opinion barometer 3210 of the Center for Sociological Research (Centro de Investigaciones Sociológicas: www.cis.es).

personally worry most about, pensions emerges in first place (Figure II.3).

The increasing saliency of pensions in public opinion coincides in time with massive

Figure II.3

The main problems in Spain and the main problems personally affecting interviewees (people 65 and older, April 2018)



Questions: "What is in your opinion the main problem currently existing in Spain? And the second? And the third?"
 "And what is the problem that affects you personally most? And the second? And the third?"

Source: Opinion barometer 3210 of the Center for Sociological Research (Centro de Investigaciones Sociológicas: www.cis.es).

demonstrations of Spanish pensioners demanding pension indexation according to the Consumer Price Index (CPI), instead of the new formula applied since 2014 that delinks pension indexation from inflation and links it to the financial evolution of the Social Security system. These massive pensioners' demonstrations since March 2018, new to Spain until recently, have shown the political power of this rapidly growing demographic group.

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

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.

□ 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 (%)
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		
2018*	18,546	2.52		
<i>Sources</i>	LFS	LFS	EPF	EPF

Table III.2

Households and families (continued)

Nuptiality						
	Marriage rate (Spanish)	Marriage rate (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
<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
<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-March.*

Divorce rate: Number of divorces per thousand population.

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	21.4	6.6	28.5	41.2
2018*	21.0	6.6	28.7	41.2
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	INE

LFS: Labour Force Survey.

MECD: Ministerio de Educación, Cultura y Deporte.

INE: Instituto Nacional de Estadística.

• Provisional data.

▪ Data refer to January-March.

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	763,466 [□]		5,892,483 [♦]	1,078 [♦]	949,614 [♦]	940 [♦]	2,358,074 [♦]	652 [♦]
<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 [•]	900,047	256,727	197,832	17,399
<i>Sources</i>	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-March.

♦ Data refer to January-April.

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>	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		0.8		0.6
<i>Sources</i>	INCLASNS	INCLASNS	INCLASNS	INCLASNS

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>	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	10,284 [▪]	8,590 [▪]	1,840 [▪]	1,955 [▪]	15.2 [▪]	18.5 [▪]	9,890 [♦]	8,542 [♦]	1,810 [♦]
<i>Sources</i>	LFS	LFS	LFS	LFS	LFS	LFS	BEL	BEL	BEL

BEL: *Boletín de Estadísticas Laborales*.

LFS: *Labour Force Survey*.

▪ Data refer to January-March.

♦ Data refer to January-April.

Orders and information:

Funcas
Caballero de Gracia, 28
28013 Madrid (Spain)
Phone: +34 91 596 57 18
Fax: +34 91 596 57 96
publica@funcas.es
www.funcas.es

