

5 April 2016

Continuous Household Survey
Year 2016

The average number of households in Spain increased by 59,900 during 2016 reaching 18,406,100

The average household size stood at 2.50 people, compared with the 2.51 of the previous year

The number of people living alone increased again, reaching 4,638,300, which was 25.2% of all households

Households

The number of households in Spain increased again in 2016 and reached 18,406,100 as an average value, which represented a 0.3% increase over the previous year (59,900 more homes).

During 2016 the population resident in family homes increased by 0.1%, while the average size of households decreased to 2.50 per household.

The most common households in 2016 remained those made up of two people (30.5% of the total). They were followed by single-person homes (25.2%), although the population included in these only accounted for 10.1% of the total.

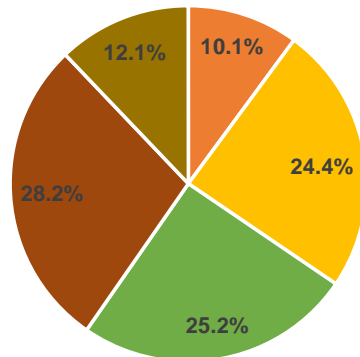
Meanwhile, households of five or more persons constituted 5.7% of the total. Their average size was 5.3 persons and in them was concentrated 12.1% of the population.

Households and population based on household size. Year 2016

	Households	%	Population(*)	%
TOTAL	18,406,100	100.0%	45,995,100	100.0%
1 person	4,638,300	25.2%	4,638,300	10.1%
2 persons	5,615,400	30.5%	11,230,900	24.4%
3 persons	3,858,000	21.0%	11,574,100	25.2%
4 persons	3,245,300	17.6%	12,981,100	28.2%
5 or more persons	1,049,000	5.7%	5,570,700	12.1%

(*) The total population is considered to be that resident in family dwellings, thus excluding those people residing in collective establishments

Population by size of the household in which it lives. Year 2016

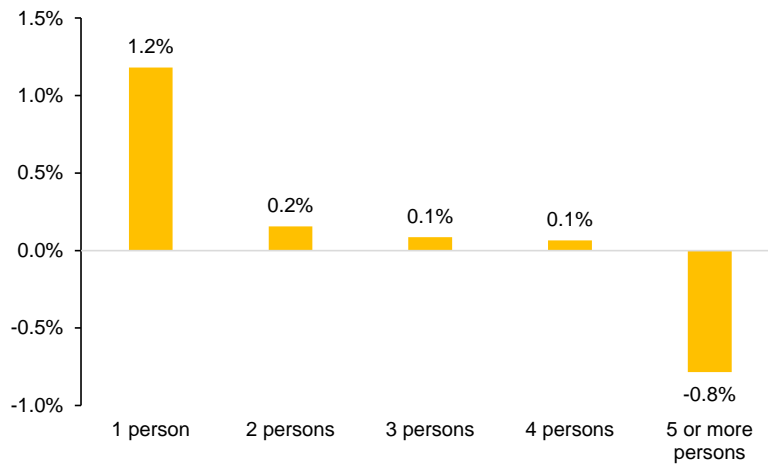


■ 1 person ■ 2 persons ■ 3 persons ■ 4 persons ■ 5 or more persons

Smaller households (with one or two persons) again grew in number. The largest growth occurred in single-person households, which increased by 1.2% reaching 4,638,300 as the average value in 2016, indicating an increase of 25.2% of the total households.

Households formed by two persons increased 0.2% and those with three and four persons increased by 0.1% each. On the contrary, households of five or more persons were the only ones that decreased (-0.8% compared with 2015).

Increase in households 2015-2016 by household size



Most common types of household. Year 2016

	CHS-2016	%	CHS-2015	%	Absolute Variation	Relative Variation
TOTAL	18,406,100	100.0%	18,346,200	100.0%	59,900	0.3%
Single-person household	4,638,300	25.2%	4,584,200	25.0%	54,100	1.2%
Couple without children living at home	3,861,900	21.0%	3,874,800	21.1%	-12,900	-0.3%
Couple with children living in the home	6,228,800	33.8%	6,253,100	34.1%	-24,300	-0.4%
- With 1 child	2,878,400	15.6%	2,905,600	15.8%	-27,200	-0.9%
- With 2 children	2,781,000	15.1%	2,778,600	15.1%	2,400	0.1%
- With 3 or more children	569,400	3.1%	569,000	3.1%	400	0.1%
Single-parent home (one adult with children)	1,964,900	10.7%	1,897,500	10.3%	67,400	3.6%
Household comprising a family nucleus with other	793,000	4.3%	786,100	4.3%	6,900	0.9%
Household with more than one family nucleus	351,800	1.9%	380,000	2.1%	-28,200	-7.4%
Persons who do not form a family nucleus	567,400	3.1%	570,500	3.1%	-3,100	-0.5%

Households comprising couples

The number of households comprising couples, married or de facto, was the largest in 2016, with 10.1 million made up exclusively of couples with or without children.

Based on the number of children living with the couple, in Spain there were 3.86 million households consisting of couples without children, 0.3% less than in 2015. On the other hand, 2.88 million households were formed by a couple with one child (0.9% less than the previous year) and 2.78 million by couples with two children.

The number of couples living with three or more children increased by 0.1% during 2016, standing at 569,400, representing 3.1% of total households.

If we include other types of household where apart from the couple there are also other members, in 2016 this gave a figure of 10.7 million households in which a couple was living. And if we include households with more than one couple, a total of 11.1 million of couples was reached.

Couples

	Year 2015	%	Year 2014	%	Absolute Variation	Relative Variation
Total couples	11,144,600		11,214,900		-70,300	-0.6%
Different sex	11,049,200	99.1%	11,121,500	99.2%	-72,300	-0.7%
Same-sex	95,300	0.9%	93,400	0.8%	1,900	2.0%
Legal couples	9,566,300	85.8%	9,586,200	85.5%	-19,900	-0.2%
De facto persons (couples)	1,578,200	14.2%	1,628,700	14.5%	-50,500	-3.1%

Married couples accounted for 85.8% of the total in 2016 and de facto couples 14.2% (in 69.3% of the cases, both of the members were single). The number of married couples decreased by 0.2%, while that of de facto couples did so by 3.1%.

Heterosexual couples accounted for 99.1% of the total and homosexual couples for 0.9%. Among the latter group, 69.5% were made up of men and 30.5% of women. The number of employed persons decreased by 2.0% compared with 2015.

Single-person households

In Spain there were 4,638,300 people living alone in 2016. Of this figure, 1,933,300 (41.7%) were people aged 65 or more. And, of these, 1,367,400 (70.7%) were women.

As for single-person households of people under 65 years old, 59.0% were men and 41.0% were women (1,595,800 compared with 1,109,300).

Compared to the average values from 2015 and 2016, the number of single-person households increased by 1.2% (54,100).

It should be noted that the single-person households of people aged 65 or more increased 4.0% as compared to 2015. In turn, those formed by people under 65 years old decreased by 0.7%.

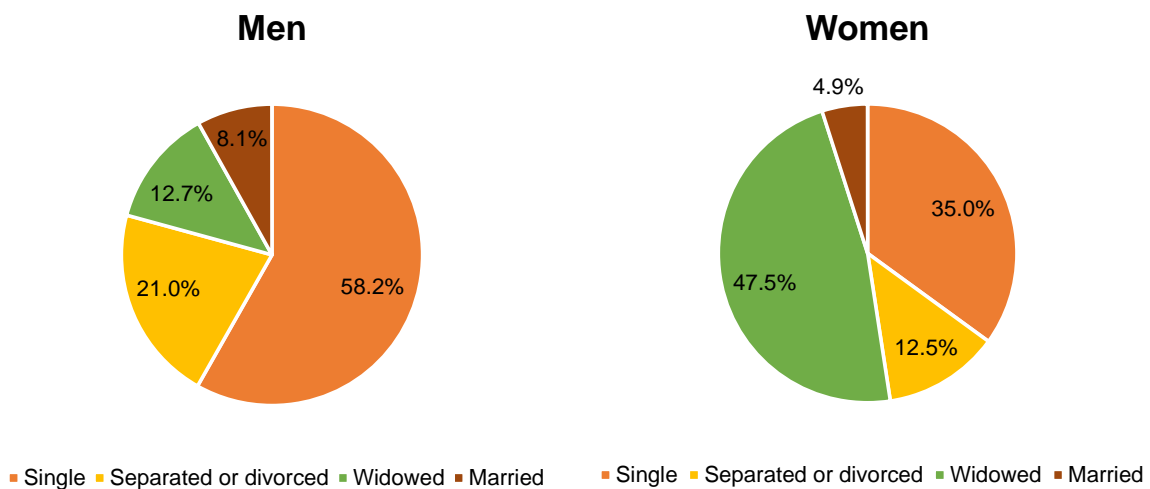
By sex, single-person households of women grew by 0.1%, while those of men decreased by 2.5%.

Single-person households by age and sex

Age	Sex	Year 2016	Year 2015	Absolute Variation	Relative Variation
Under 65 years old	TOTAL	2,705,100	2,724,400	-19,300	-0.7%
	Man	1,595,800	1,606,300	-10,500	-0.7%
	Women	1,109,300	1,118,000	-8,700	-0.8%
65 years old and over	TOTAL	1,933,300	1,859,800	73,500	4.0%
	Man	565,800	503,500	62,300	12.4%
	Women	1,367,400	1,356,300	11,100	0.8%

With regard to marital status, in the case of men the most frequent single-person households were made up of singles (58.2%). For women, the majority of single-person households were formed by widows (47.5% of the total).

Single-person households by marital status. Year 2016



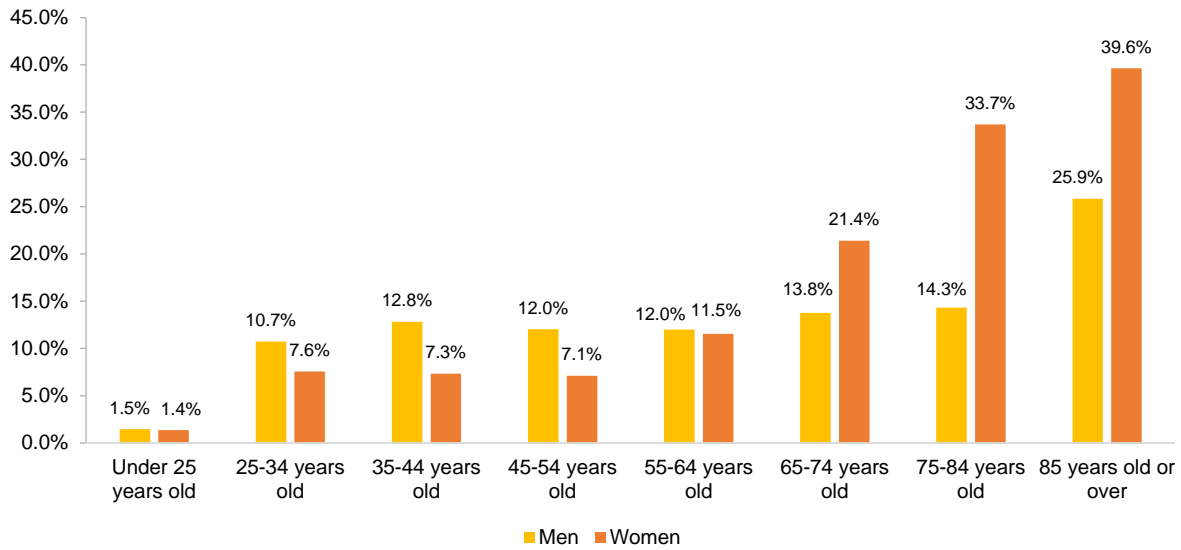
By age, 39.6% of women aged 85 and older lived alone, compared with 25.9% of men.

The propensity¹ to live alone differs by sex and age. Thus, it was higher in men for ages up to 64 years old. But for ages over 65 years, this tendency was higher in women.

In younger age groups (under 25) the propensity to live alone was only 1.5% in men and 1.4% in women.

Propensity to live alone by sex and age. Year 2016

¹ We give the term “propensity” to the ratio between the number of people in each age group living alone and the total number of people in that age group.



Single-parent households

Single-parent households, i.e. those which are formed by one single parent with children, in 2016 mostly comprised a mother with children (1,591,200, 81.0% of the total, compared to 373,700 comprising a father with children).

In two out of three single-parent households (66.1%), the parent lived with only one child.

The number of households comprising a mother with children increased by 3.2% compared to 2015, while that of a father with children increased by 5.1%. In all, they grew by 3.6%.

In 40.6% of households comprising mothers with children, the mother was a widow, in 35.3% separated or divorced, in 12.1% single and in 11.9% of households the mother was married.

By age, 78.0% of households with a single mother with children consisted of women 35 years old or more.

In almost a third of single-parent households (34.4%), the parent was 65 years old or more, while those with the parent under 35 years old did not reach 5.0%.

In 18.4% of households with a father with children, the parents were under 45 years old, while in those of mothers with children, this percentage was 24.1%.

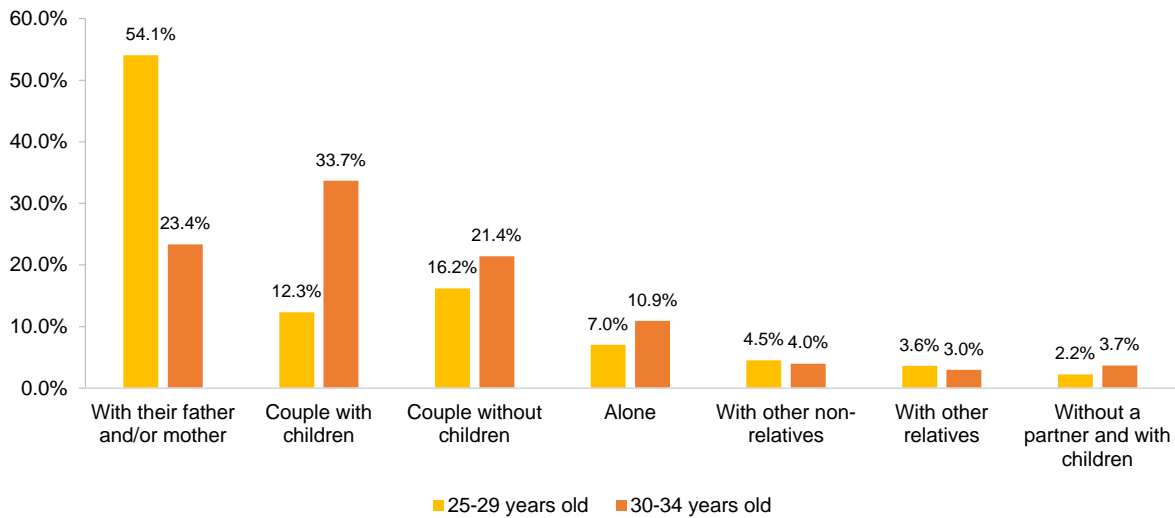
Emancipation: people between 25 and 34 years old

More than one third of the 5,533,100 people between 25 and 34 years of age had not yet left their parents' home in 2016.

54.1% of young people between 25 and 29 years old lived with their parents or with one of them. For persons aged from 30 to 34 years old, this percentage decreased to 23.4%.

The most common form of cohabitation in people between 30 and 34 years old was the couple (33.7% of the total lived with children and 21.4% without them).

Types of cohabitation among young people between 25 and 34 years of age. Year 2016

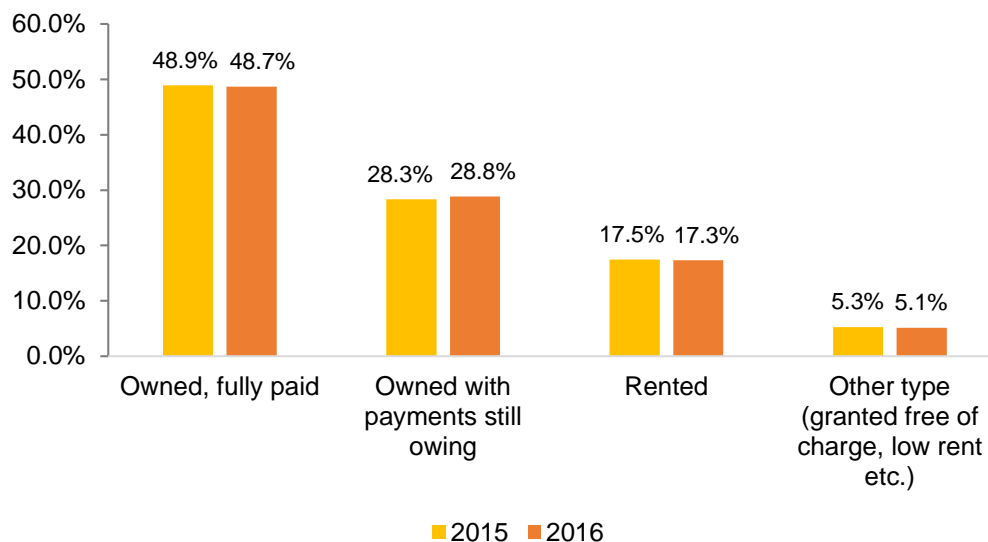


Tenure status of dwelling

In 2016, 77.5% of households occupied homes they owned, both with and without outstanding payments to make.

Meanwhile, households living in rented dwellings decreased slightly, standing at 17.3% of the total, as compared to 17.5% in 2015.

Change 2015-2016 in type of ownership of the dwelling



The tenure status of dwellings varies according to nationality. Thus, 59.4% of households with at least one foreign member lived in rented dwellings, compared to 11.8% of households with all members of Spanish nationality.

On the other hand, the percentage of households with at least one foreign member owning the home with outstanding payments increased to 19.2%, from 18.7% in 2015.

In households with all members of Spanish nationality, the percentage of households they owned with outstanding payments increased from 29.6% as average value in 2015 to 30.1% in 2016.

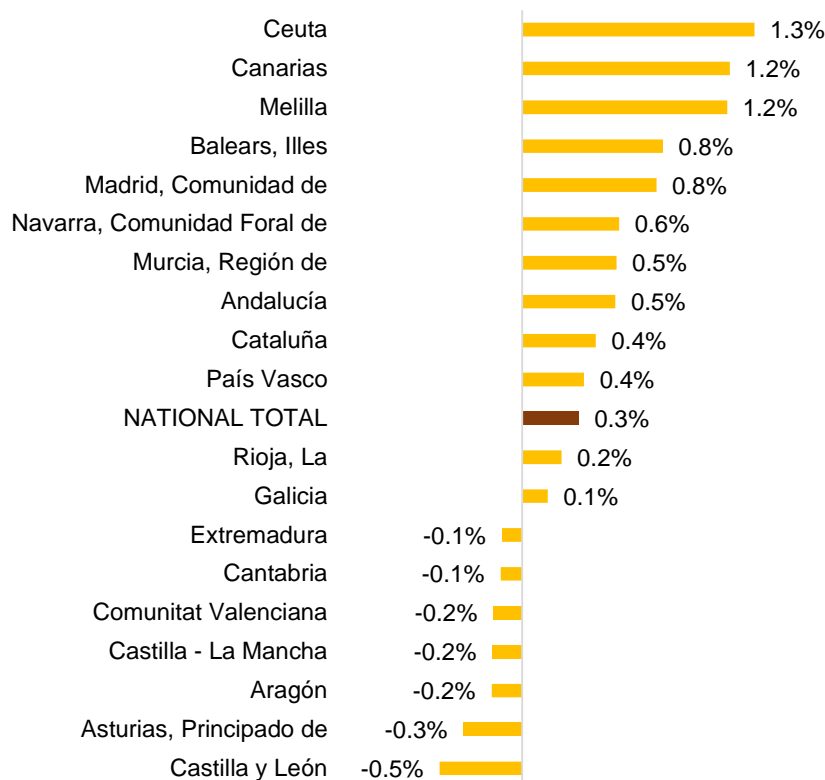
Number of households and average size by Autonomous Region

The number of households grew nationally by 0.3% in 2016.

The largest increases occurred in the autonomous cities of Ceuta (1.3%) and Melilla (1.2%), and in the autonomous communities of Canarias (1.2%), Illes Balears and Comunidad de Madrid (0.8% in both).

By contrast, the largest declines occurred in Castilla y León (-0.5%), Principado de Asturias (-0.3%), and Aragón, Castilla–La Mancha and Comunitat Valenciana (-0.2% in all three).

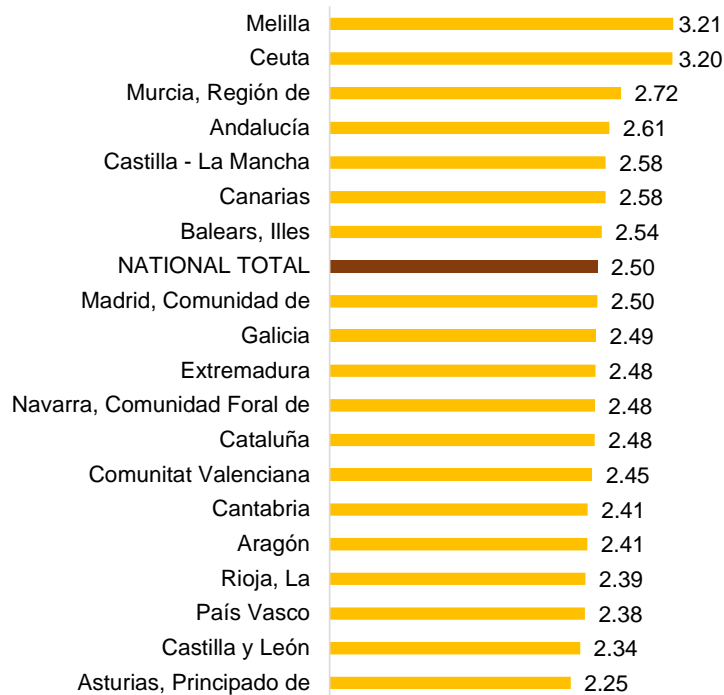
Relative growth in the number of households by Autonomous Cities and Communities. Years 2015-2016



As for the average household size, the autonomous cities of Ceuta and Melilla had the highest level, with more than three people in both cases. Next came Murcia (2.72 persons) and Andalucía (2.61).

At the opposite end were Principado de Asturias (2.25 persons per household), Castilla y León (2.34) and the País Vasco (2.38).

Average household size by Autonomous Cities and Communities. Year 2016



The autonomous cities of Melilla (20.4%) and Ceuta (19.3%) and Región de Murcia (8.9%) had the highest percentages of households with five or more members. By contrast, Principado de Asturias (3.0%), Castilla y León (3.7%) and the País Vasco (3.9%) had the lowest percentages.

Principado de Asturias was the region with the highest percentage of single-person households (29.7% of the total households). It was followed by Castilla y León (28.7%) and La Rioja (28.5%).

Meanwhile, the lowest percentages of single-person households were in the autonomous cities of Ceuta (17.2%) and Melilla (17.5%) and in Murcia (20.6%).

Percentage of households by size by Autonomous Regions. Year 2016

	Size of the household				
	1 person	2 persons	3 persons	4 persons	5 and more
NATIONAL TOTAL	25.2%	30.5%	21.0%	17.6%	5.7%
Andalucía	23.0%	28.5%	21.4%	20.5%	6.6%
Aragón	27.1%	31.5%	20.6%	16.4%	4.4%
Asturias, Principado de	29.7%	33.9%	21.8%	11.5%	3.0%
Balears, Illes	23.9%	31.4%	20.7%	17.2%	6.8%
Canarias	23.8%	29.0%	22.9%	17.5%	6.9%
Cantabria	27.4%	30.6%	21.5%	15.9%	4.5%
Castilla y León	28.7%	32.3%	20.1%	15.1%	3.7%
Castilla - La Mancha	23.5%	29.4%	20.7%	20.3%	6.0%
Cataluña	25.3%	31.7%	20.5%	16.8%	5.7%
Comunitat Valenciana	25.9%	30.7%	21.3%	17.3%	4.8%
Extremadura	25.6%	30.2%	20.5%	19.0%	4.7%
Galicia	25.0%	31.1%	22.4%	15.3%	6.1%
Madrid, Comunidad de	25.7%	30.4%	20.3%	17.6%	6.0%
Murcia, Región de	20.6%	28.6%	21.1%	20.8%	8.9%
Navarra, Comunidad Foral de	26.9%	29.8%	19.6%	18.2%	5.5%
País Vasco	27.2%	32.3%	20.4%	16.3%	3.9%
Rioja, La	28.5%	31.2%	20.1%	15.8%	4.5%
Ceuta	17.2%	21.5%	21.6%	20.4%	19.3%
Melilla	17.5%	22.5%	17.4%	22.3%	20.4%

Methodological note

The Continuous Household Survey (ECH), launched in 2013, is a continuous sample survey providing information annually on the basic demographic characteristics of the population, the households it comprises and the dwellings they inhabit.

The ECH is considered the reference source at the INE regarding the characteristics of households, as it provides information on the number of households by size and composition and also on ways in which people cohabit.

The annual sample investigated consist of 1,572 census sections distributed throughout the national territory and 65 postal addresses per section. The effective sample in 2016 was 49,217 households (the 2015-2016 cumulative sample was 106,735). The two-stage stratified sampling, with the first stage units being the census sections and those of the second stage being the existing postal addresses in the section.

The information is collected with a sequential multi-channel system that includes interviews by Internet (CAWI), telephone (CATI), paper questionnaires through the mail and personal interviews with a laptop (ICSC). The rate of collection of information through the various channels in 2016 was: 24% by internet, 35% by phone, 22% by mail and 19% through visits by INE agents.

The information presented corresponds to the processing of the collected sample throughout a full year (2016) and the data therefore refer to the average for the year. These data are offered for the national total and by autonomous region. But in addition, data are also published relating to 1 January 2016, adding together the samples for two full years (2015 and 2016), which allows us to offer data by province.

Definitions

Household: is the person or group of persons living in a family home.

Family nucleus: Intermediate hierarchical unit between the inhabitant and the household. It can be classified into four types: couple without children, couples with one or more children, parent with one or more children, and mother with one or more children. In order to be considered part of the family nucleus of their parents, children must not have a partner and must not have any children who live with them.

Family dwelling: Dwelling where one or more people live, not necessarily linked by kinship and who do not constitute a collective establishment.