

12 April 2018

Continuous Household Survey
Year 2017

The average number of households in Spain increased by 66,700 during 2017 reaching 18,472,800

The average household size stood at 2.49 people, compared with the 2.50 of the previous year

The number of people living alone increased again, reaching 4,687,400, which was 25.4% of the total number of households

Households

The number of households in Spain increased again in 2017 and reached 18,472,800 as an average value, which represented a 0.4% increase over the previous year (66,700 more homes).

The population resident in family dwellings increased by 0.2%, while the average size of households decreased to 2.49 persons per household (from 2.50 in 2016).

The most common households in 2017 were once again those made up of two persons (30.4% of the total). They were followed by single-person households (25.4%), although the population included in these only accounted for 10.2% of the total.

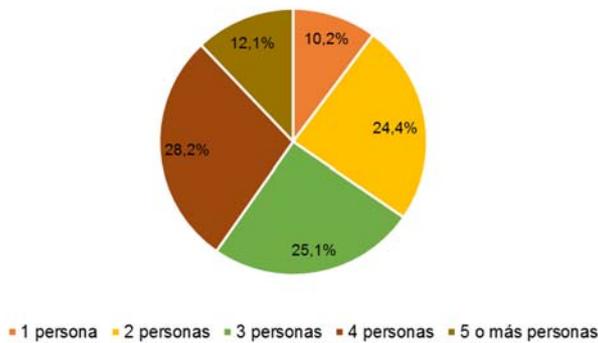
Meanwhile, households of five or more persons constituted 5.7% of the total. Their average size was 5.28 persons and they concentrated 12.1% of the population.

Households and population by household size. Year 2017

	Households	%	Population(*)	%
Total	18,472,800	100.0%	46,070,700	100.0%
1 person	4,687,400	25.4%	4,687,400	10.2%
2 persons	5,620,700	30.4%	11,241,300	24.4%
3 persons	3,860,400	20.9%	11,581,300	25.1%
4 persons	3,251,900	17.6%	13,007,500	28.2%
5 or more persons	1,052,400	5.7%	5,553,100	12.1%

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

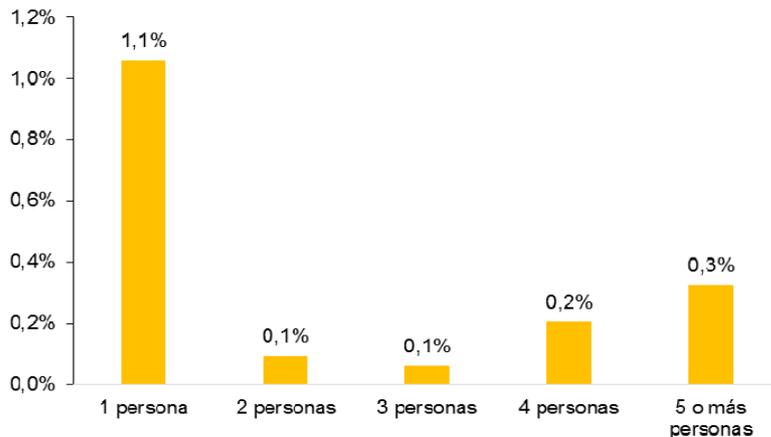
Population by household size where they live. Year 2017



Smaller households (with one or two persons) again grew in number. The largest growth occurred in single-person households, which increased by 1.1% reaching 4,687,400 on average in 2017, accounting for 25.4% of total households.

Two- and three-person households increased 0.1% each. On the other hand, those with four and with five or more persons increased 0.2% and 0.3% respectively.

Increase in households in 2016-2017 by size of the household



Most common types of household. Year 2017

	CHS-2017	%	CHS-2016	%	Absolute Variation	Relative Variation
Total	18,472,800	100.0%	18,406,100	100.0%	66,700	0.4%
Single-person household	4,687,400	25.4%	4,638,300	25.2%	49,100	1.1%
Couple without children living at home	3,928,500	21.3%	3,861,900	21.0%	66,600	1.7%
Couple with children living in the home	6,349,800	34.4%	6,228,800	33.8%	121,000	1.9%
- With 1 child	2,963,100	16.0%	2,878,400	15.6%	84,700	2.9%
- With 2 children	2,778,500	15.0%	2,781,000	15.1%	-2,500	-0.1%
- With 3 or more children	608,200	3.3%	569,400	3.1%	38,800	6.8%
Single-parent home (one adult with children)	1,842,400	10.0%	1,964,900	10.7%	-122,500	-6.2%
Household comprising a family nucleus with other	771,700	4.2%	793,000	4.3%	-21,300	-2.7%
Household with more than one family nucleus	350,200	1.9%	351,800	1.9%	-1,600	-0.5%
Persons who do not form a family nucleus	542,900	2.9%	567,400	3.1%	-24,500	-4.3%

Couple households

The number of couple households, married or de facto, was the highest in 2017, with 10.3 million households consisting exclusively of couples with or without children.

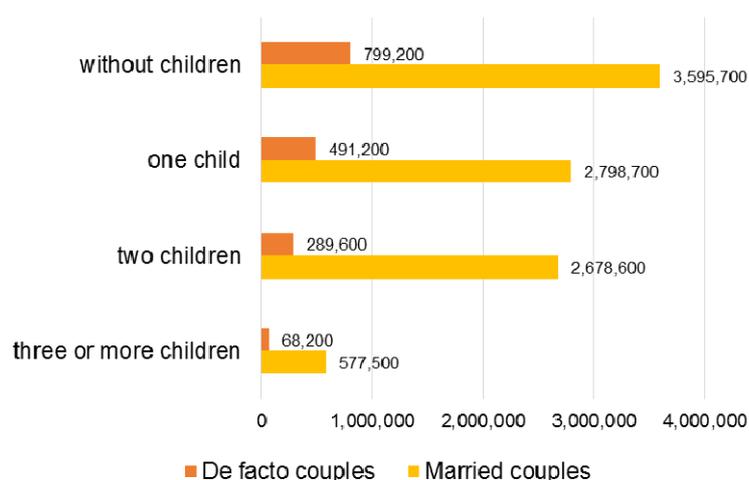
Considering the number of children living with the couple, in Spain there were 3.93 million households consisting of couples without children, 2.96 million couples with one child and 2.78 million couples with two children. The number of couples with three or more children stood at 608,200.

If we include other types of household where, apart from the couple, there were also other members, then the figure for 2017 reaches 10.9 million households in which a couple was living. And if we include households with more than one couple, a total of 11.3 million of couples is reached.

Couples						
	Year 2017	%	Year 2016	%	Absolute Variation	Relative Variation
Total couples	11,298,600		11,144,600		154,000	1.4%
Different sex	11,219,700	99.3%	11,049,200	99.1%	170,500	1.5%
Same-sex	78,900	0.7%	95,300	0.9%	-16,400	-17.2%
Legal couples	9,650,500	85.4%	9,566,300	85.8%	84,200	0.9%
De facto couples	1,648,100	14.6%	1,578,200	14.2%	69,900	4.4%
(*) These data should be taken with caution since the estimate may be affected by sampling error						

Married couples accounted for 85.4% of the total in 2017 and de facto couples were 14.6% (both members were single in 70.9% of the cases). The number of married couples increased by 0.9%, while that of de facto couples did so by 4.4%.

Couples according to legal cohabitation status and number of children



According to the legal cohabitation status, the highest percentage of de facto couples was observed in couples without children (with 799,200, representing 18.2% of the total). In the case of couples with two and three or more children, this percentage stood at around 10%.

Single-person households

In Spain there were 4,687,400 people living alone in 2017. Of this figure, 1,960,900 (41.8%) were people aged 65 or more. And, of these, 1,410,000 (71.9%) were women.

As for single-person households of people under 65 years old, 59.9% were men and 40.1% were women (1,633,800 compared with 1,092,700).

Compared to the average values for 2016, the number of people living alone increased by 1.1% in 2017 (49,100 more).

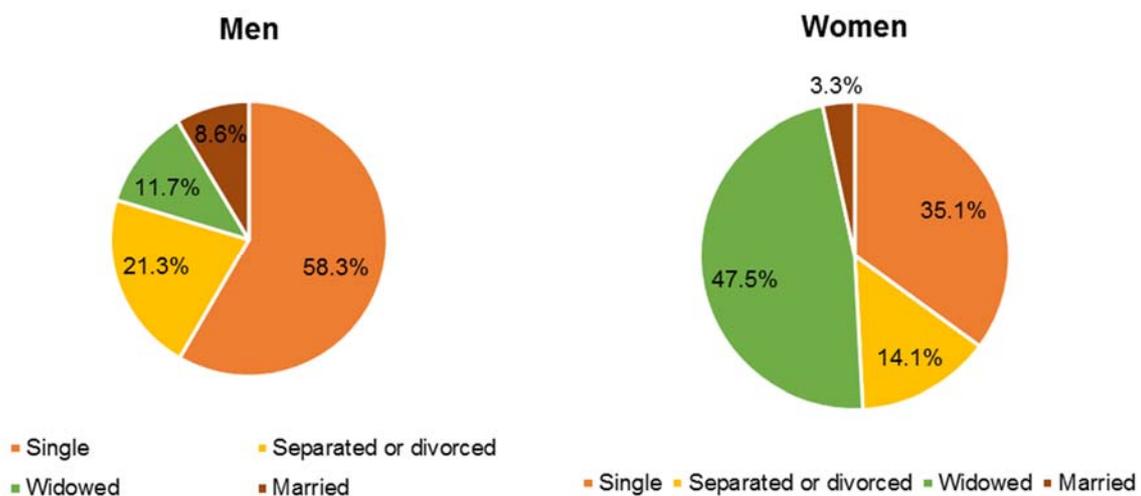
By age group, single-person households of people aged 65 and over increased by 1.4%, while those formed of persons under 65 increased by 0.8%.

By sex, single-person households of women grew by 1.0%, and those of men by 1.1%.

Single-person households by age and sex					
Age	Sex	Year 2017	Year 2016	Absolute Variation	Relative Variation
Under 65 years old	Total	2,726,500	2,705,100	21,400	0.8%
	Man	1,633,800	1,595,800	38,000	2.4%
	Women	1,092,700	1,109,300	-16,600	-1.5%
65 years old and over	Total	1,960,900	1,933,300	27,600	1.4%
	Man	550,900	565,800	-14,900	-2.6%
	Women	1,410,000	1,367,400	42,600	3.1%

With regard to marital status, in the case of men the most frequent single-person households were made up of singles (58.3%). For women, the majority of single-person households were formed by widows (47.5% of the total).

Single-person households by marital status. Year 2017

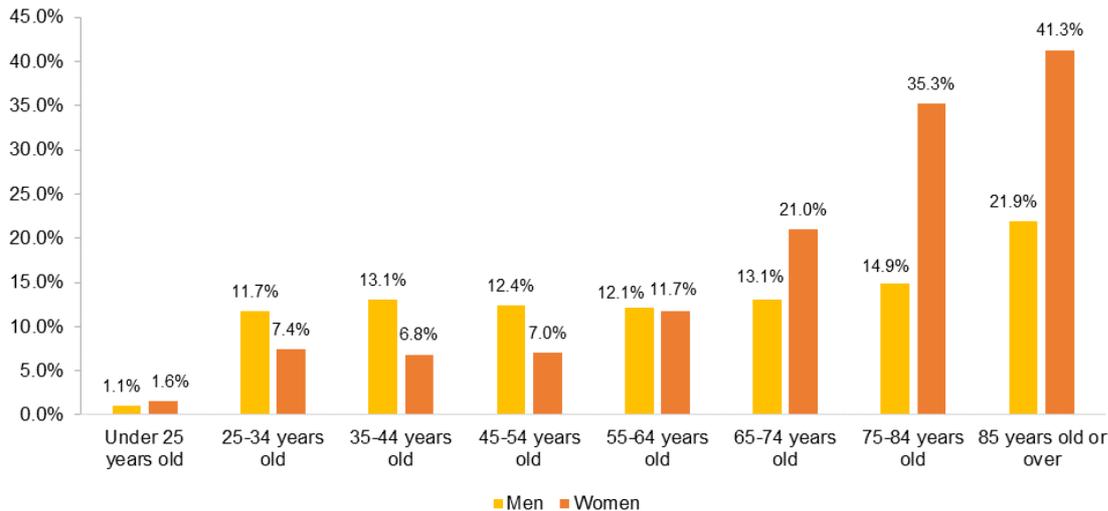


By age, 41.3% of women aged 85 and older lived alone, compared with 21.9% of men.

The propensity to live alone¹ differs by sex and age. Thus, in the ages up to 64 years, it was higher in men and in the ages over 65 years and older in women.

In younger age groups (under 25) the propensity to live alone was only 1.1% in men and 1.6% in women.

Propensity to live alone by sex and age. Year 2017



Single-parent households

In 2017, single-parent households, i.e. those which are formed by one single parent with children, were mostly comprised of a mother with children. Specifically there were 1,529,900 (83.0% of the total), compared to 312,600 for a father with children.

In two out of three single-parent households (68.8%), the parent lived with only one child.

The number of single-parent households decreased by 6.2% compared with 2016. The number of mothers with children decreased by 3.9%, while that of fathers with children did so by 16.4%.

In 40.0% of households comprising mothers with children, the mother was a widow, in 39.3% separated or divorced, in 14.2% single and in 6.5% married.

By age, 76.8% of households with a single mother with children consisted of women 35 years old or more.

In one third of the single-parent households (34.0%) the parent was aged 65 or over. 4.7% were under 35 year old.

In 13.2% of households with a father with children, the parents were under 45 years old, while in those of mothers with children, this percentage was 24.4%.

Emancipation: people between 25 and 34 years old

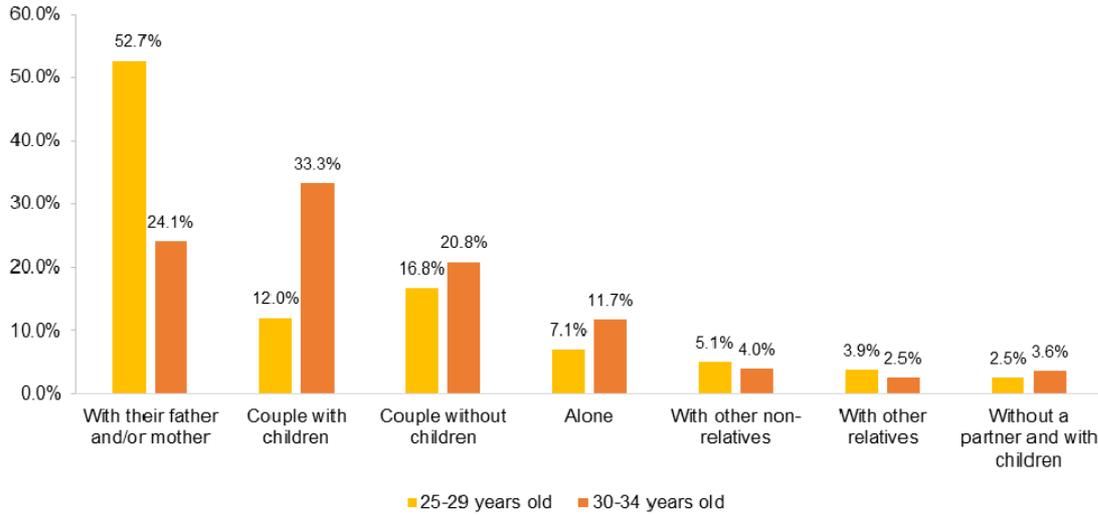
More than one third of the 5,382,500 people between 25 and 34 years of age had not yet become independent in 2017.

¹ We call "propensity to live alone" the ratio between the number of people in each age group living alone and the total number of people in that age group.

52.7% 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 24.1%.

The most common form of cohabitation in people between 30 and 34 years old was the couple (33.3% of the total lived with children and 20.8% without them).

Types of cohabitation among young people between 25 and 34 years of age. Year 2017

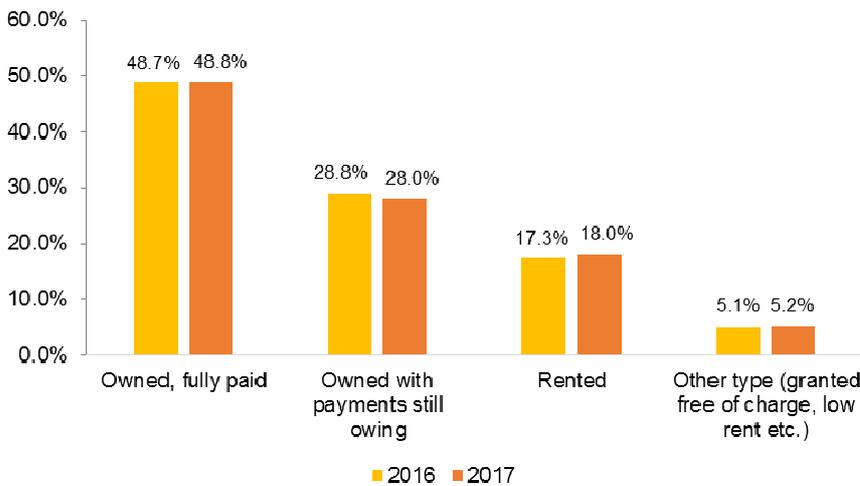


Tenure status of dwelling

In 2017, 76.7% of households were living in owner-occupied dwellings, both with and without outstanding payments.

On the other hand, households living in rented dwellings stood at 18.0% of the total, as compared to 17.3% in 2016.

Change 2016-2017 in type of ownership of the dwelling



The tenure status of dwellings varies according to nationality. Thus, 59.7% of households with at least one foreign member lived in rented dwellings, compared to 12.7% of households with all members of Spanish nationality.

On the other hand, the percentage of households with at least one foreign member owning a dwelling with outstanding payments decreased to 18.8%, from 19.2% in 2016.

In households with all members of Spanish nationality, the percentage of households they owned with outstanding payments decreased to 29.2% from 30.1% in 2016.

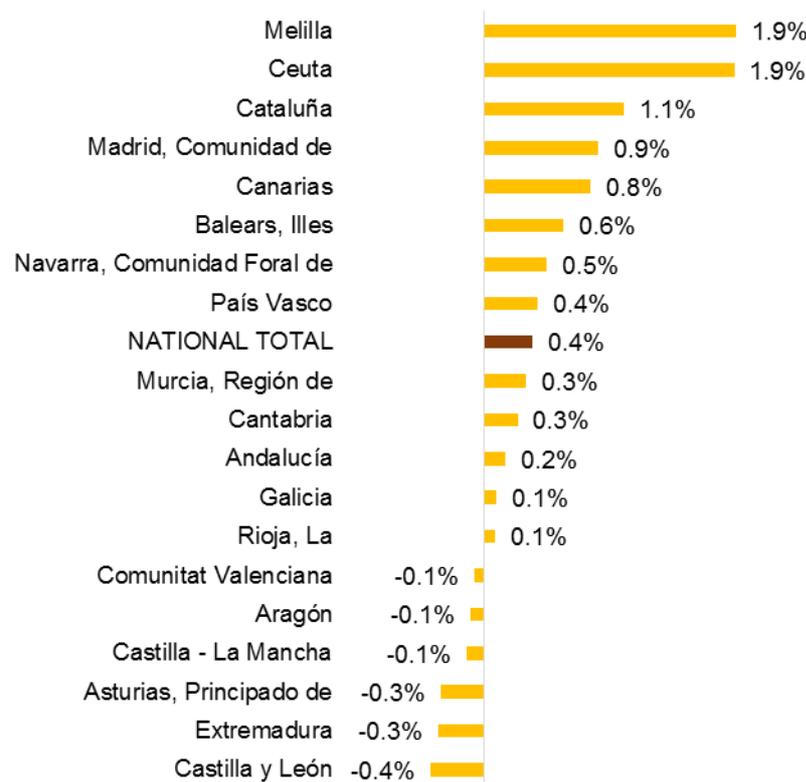
Number of households and average size by Autonomous Community

The number of households grew by 0.4% at the national level in 2017.

The largest increases occurred in the Autonomous Cities of Melilla and Ceuta (both 1.9%) and in the Autonomous Communities of Cataluña (1.1%) and Comunidad de Madrid (0.9%).

In turn, Castilla y León (-0.4%) and Extremadura and Principado de Asturias (both with -0.3%) registered the greatest decreases.

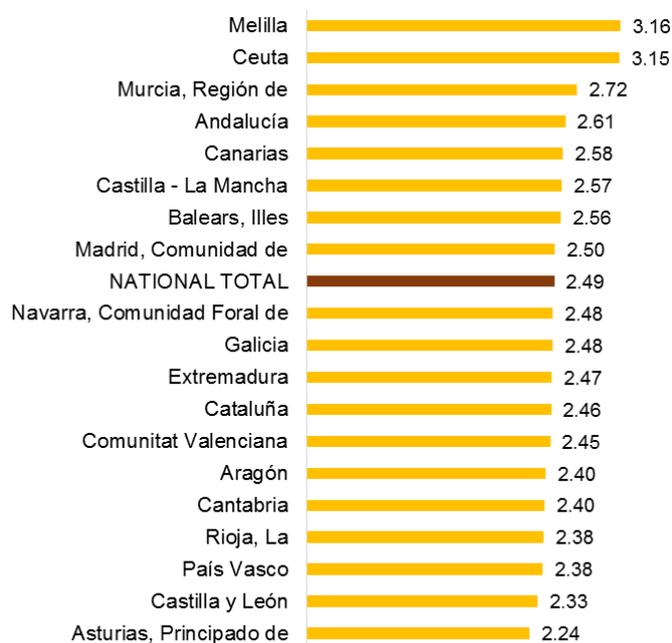
Relative growth in the number of households by Autonomous Community and city. Years 2016-2017



As for the average household size, the Autonomous Cities of Ceuta and Melilla showed the highest levels, with more than three people in both cases. This was followed by Región de Murcia (2.72 persons) and Andalucía (2.61).

At the opposite end were Principado de Asturias (2.24 persons per household), Castilla y León (2.33) and País Vasco (2.38).

Average household size by Autonomous Community and city. Year 2017



The Autonomous Cities of Melilla (19.9%) and Ceuta (19.0%) and Región de Murcia (9.0%) had the highest percentages of households with five or more members. In turn, Principado de Asturias (3.0%), Castilla y León (3.7%) and País Vasco (3.9%) had the lowest percentages.

Principado de Asturias was the Autonomous Community with the highest percentage of single-person households (29.9% of the total households). It was followed by Castilla y León (29.0%) and La Rioja (28.4%).

Meanwhile, the lowest percentages of single-person households were registered in the Autonomous Cities of Melilla (18.0%) and Ceuta (18.3%) and in Región de Murcia (20.7%).

	Size of the household				
	1 person	2 persons	3 persons	4 persons	5 and more
NATIONAL TOTAL	25.4%	30.4%	20.9%	17.6%	5.7%
Andalucía	23.2%	28.5%	21.3%	20.4%	6.6%
Aragón	27.3%	31.4%	20.5%	16.4%	4.4%
Asturias, Principado de	29.9%	33.9%	21.7%	11.5%	3.0%
Balears, Illes	23.6%	31.1%	20.8%	17.4%	7.0%
Canarias	23.7%	29.0%	23.0%	17.4%	6.9%
Cantabria	27.6%	30.7%	21.4%	15.9%	4.4%
Castilla y León	29.0%	32.3%	20.0%	15.0%	3.7%
Castilla - La Mancha	23.8%	29.4%	20.7%	20.3%	5.9%
Cataluña	25.8%	31.5%	20.4%	16.6%	5.7%
Comunitat Valenciana	25.9%	30.6%	21.3%	17.4%	4.8%
Extremadura	25.9%	30.2%	20.4%	18.9%	4.6%
Galicia	25.3%	31.1%	22.3%	15.3%	6.0%
Madrid, Comunidad de	25.7%	30.3%	20.3%	17.7%	6.0%
Murcia, Región de	20.7%	28.5%	21.0%	20.8%	9.0%
Navarra, Comunidad Foral de	26.9%	29.7%	19.6%	18.2%	5.7%
País Vasco	27.5%	32.3%	20.2%	16.2%	3.9%
Rioja, La	28.4%	31.1%	20.1%	15.8%	4.6%
Ceuta	18.3%	21.6%	21.3%	20.1%	19.0%
Melilla	18.0%	22.2%	17.3%	22.6%	19.9%

Methodological note

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

The ECH is considered the reference source of 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 2017 was 52,881 households (the 2016-2017 cumulative sample was 102,098). The sampling is a 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 online interviews (CAWI), telephone (CATI), paper questionnaires via mail and personal interviews with portable computers (CAPI). The rate of collection of information through the various channels in 2017 was: 27% through the Internet, 36% by phone, 19% by mail and 18% through visits by INE agents.

The information presented corresponds to the processing of the sample collected on a continuous basis for a whole year (2017) and therefore it can be considered as referring to the average for the year. These data are offered for the national total and by Autonomous Community. But in addition, data referring to 1 January 2017 are published, accumulating the sample of two complete years (2016 and 2017), which allows us to offer some figures by province.

Definitions

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

Family nucleus: Intermediate hierarchical unit between the inhabitant and the household. It can be classified into four types: couple without children, couple with one or more children, father 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 intended to be inhabited by one or more persons, not necessarily linked by kinship and who do not constitute a collective establishment.

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