

30 November 2007

Quality of Life Survey (QLS)

Year 2006. Main results

–The average net annual income of households is 23,442 euros, 4.6% more than the previous year. The average income per person increases 6.0%, rising to 8,403 euros.

–The Autonomous Communities with the highest net income per household are Navarra (29,845 euros) and Madrid (27,718 euros). In contrast, Extremadura (17,910 euros) and Andalucía (20,268 euros) are the Autonomous Communities with the lowest income.

– The percentage of persons below the relative poverty line in Spain is 19.9%

–39.9% of Spanish households make ends meet fairly easily, and 68.8% believe that they are able to assume unexpected expenses.

–Each household spends, on average, 221 euros per month on the main dwelling (rent or mortgage interests, community costs, water and other associated expenses).

–19.3% of households have problems with crime and vandalism in their neighbourhood, 16.5% have problems with pollution, and 26.7% complain of noise from neighbours or from the street.

–Almost one third of persons with higher education goes to the cinema fairly frequently. This figure is reduced to 3.6% in the case of adults with primary education or lower.

–Approximately half of the persons 16 to 29 years old meets daily with friends. This proportion is 25.8% in the case of persons older than 64 years of age.

Average income

The average net annual income of households residing in Spain rose to 23,442 euros, indicating an increase of 4.6% with respect to the previous year.

On the other hand, income per person reached 8,403 euros, 6.0% higher than the figure registered the previous year.

Average income per person in one-member households was 11,439 euros. In the case of households made up of one adult and at least one dependent child, income was 6,005 euros.

Average net annual income by type of household. Year 2005

Data in euros

	Average income per household	Average income per person
Total	23,442	8,403
One-member households	11,439	11,439
2 adults, without dependent children	20,498	10,249
Other households without dependent children	30,626	8,823
1 adult, with 1 or more dependent children	14,594	6,005
2 adults, with 1 or more dependent children	26,877	7,364
Other households with dependent children	30,664	6,707

The educational level influenced the income level. The average income of households whose reference person had completed higher education was 33,712 euros. This income was reduced to 17,648 euros when the educational level reached was equal to or less than elementary education.

Average net annual income by educational level of the reference person. Year 2005

Data in euros

	Average income per household	Average income per person
Total	23,442	8,403
Primary education or lower	17,648	6,768
First stage secondary education	21,765	7,103
Second stage secondary education	25,654	8,736
Higher education	33,712	12,129

By Autonomous Community, Navarra and Madrid registered the highest net income per household, with 29,845 euros and 27,718 euros, respectively.

On the other hand, the Communities with the lowest net income per household were Extremadura (17,910 euros) and Andalucía (20,268 euros).

Average net annual income by Autonomous Community. Year 2005

Data in euros

	Average income per household	Average income per person
Total	23,442	8,403
Andalucía	20,268	6,859
Aragón	24,018	9,056
Asturias (Principado de)	23,695	9,086
Balears (Illes)	26,430	9,913
Canarias	21,159	7,134
Cantabria	25,775	9,071
Castilla y León	20,745	7,879
Castilla-La Mancha	20,470	7,185
Cataluña	26,461	9,731
Comunitat Valenciana	21,946	8,132
Extremadura	17,910	6,203
Galicia	21,321	7,607
Madrid (Comunidad de)	27,718	9,862
Murcia (Región de)	21,025	7,000
Navarra (Comunidad Foral de)	29,845	10,705
País Vasco	26,407	9,995
Rioja (La)	22,086	8,301
Ceuta y Melilla	23,590	7,693

Relative poverty

19.9% of the population residing in Spain was below the relative poverty line, a rate similar to that obtained in the Quality of Life Survey from the year 2005.

This rate was higher in the case of women (21.2%) than in the case of men (18.5%).

By age, the groups most affected by relative poverty were persons aged 65 years old and over (with a rate of 30.6%) and persons younger than 16 years old (whose rate was 23.8%). The group least affected, for both men and women, was that aged 25 to 49 years old, with rates of 14.7% and 16.3%, respectively.

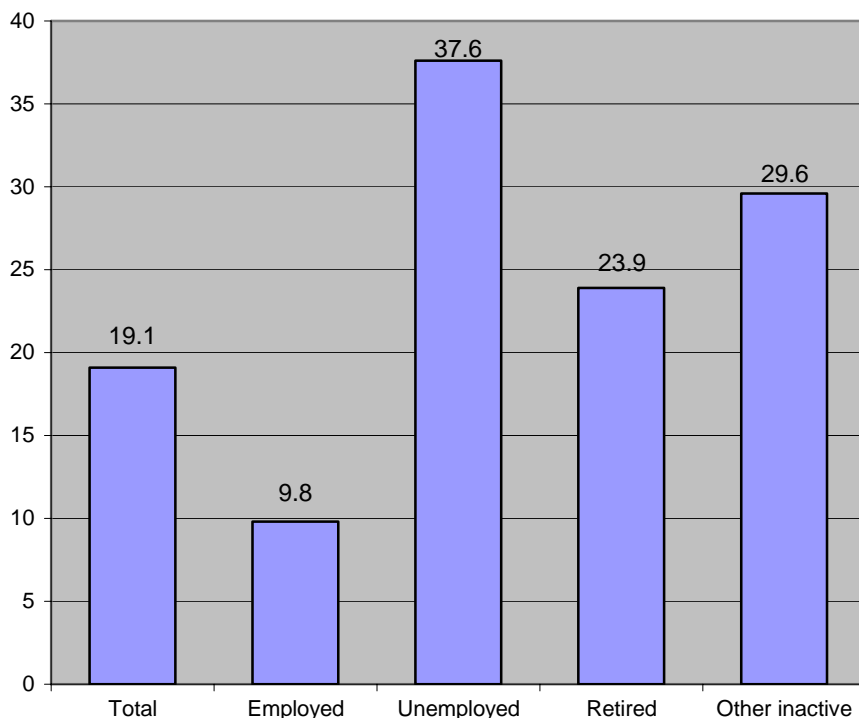
Relative poverty rate, by age and sex

Percentages

	Both sexes	Males	Females
Total	19.9	18.5	21.2
Under 16 years	23.8	23.6	24.1
16 to 24 years of age	19.4	17.7	21.2
25 to 49 years of age	15.5	14.7	16.3
50 to 64 years of age	16.4	15.4	17.4
65 years old and over	30.6	28.0	32.6

The percentage of adults below the relative poverty line differed, depending on their employment situation. Thus, 37.6% of the unemployed population was below this line, whereas in the case of employed persons, the rate was 9.8%.

Relative poverty rate of adults by employment situation (Percentages)



Considering the importance of the educational level of the individual in his/her situation as regarded relative poverty, 29.9% of the population that had reached an educational level equal to or less than primary education was below the relative poverty line. When the level reached was higher education, the said rate stood at 7.2%.

Relative poverty rate of adults by educational level

Percentages

	Adults
Total	19.1
Primary education or lower	29.9
First stage secondary education	20.7
Second stage secondary education	12.4
Higher education	7.2

Household economic situation

The Quality of Life Survey includes some questions whose purpose is to ascertain the opinion of the households regarding certain aspects relating to their economic situation. In particular, we ask about the degree of ease in making ends meet and the ability to assume unexpected expenses. Unlike the other questions that are asked in the survey, these questions are subjective, that is, the households respond according to their own opinion.

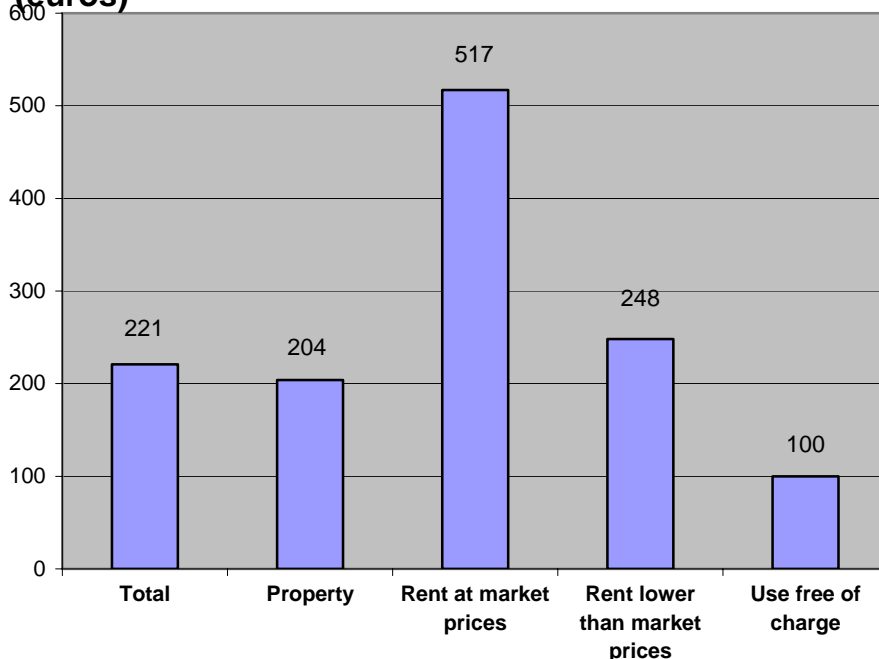
39.9% of the households expressed that they made ends meet fairly easily and **68.8% believed that they were able to assume unexpected expenses.**

Household expenses

Each household spent a monthly average of 221 euros on expenses related to the main dwelling during the year 2006, indicating an increase of 4.2% as compared with 2005. These expenses included rent or mortgage interests, community costs, water and other expenses associated with the dwelling.

The amount varied, depending on the tenancy regime of the dwellings. In those households with a rented dwelling at market prices, the figure rose to 517 euros, while those households that owned their dwelling paid 204 euros monthly. If the dwelling was used free of charge, the expense was 100 euros.

Household expenses by tenancy regime (euros)



Problems with the dwelling

11.8% of the households suffered from a lack of natural light in some room of the dwelling. Considering problems arising in the neighbourhood where the dwelling was located, 16.5% complained of pollution or other environmental problems.

Likewise, 19.3% of the households were affected by crime and vandalism, while 26.7% suffered from noise from the neighbours or from the street.

The size of the municipality of residence was a determining factor regarding the problems of the dwelling. The households residing in municipalities with more than half a million inhabitants suffered the most problems with light (19.9%), noise (36.4%), pollution (28.4%) and crime (34.3%).

Households that suffered certain problems in the dwelling, by size of the municipality

Percentages

	Insufficient natural light	Noise produced by neighbours or from outside	Pollution and other environmental problems	Crime or vandalism
Total	11.8	26.7	16.5	19.3
Up to 10,000 inhabitants	11.7	14.9	7.8	8.7
10,000 to 50,000 inhab.	8.9	25.6	13.1	14.9
50,000 to 100,000 inhab.	9.3	28.9	17.4	20.1
100,000 to 500,000 inhabitants	10.1	31.0	19.0	22.5
More than 500,000 inhabitants	19.9	36.4	28.4	34.3

By Autonomous Community, Madrid and Murcia had the highest percentages of households affected by problems with pollution and crime or vandalism in the neighbourhood of residence.

Extremadura was worth noting as the Autonomous Community with the lowest percentage of households with problems with noise, crime and pollution.

Percentage of households that suffer from certain problems, by Autonomous Community

Percentages

	Insufficient natural light	Noise from the neighbours or from the street	Pollution and other environmental problems	Crime or vandalism
Total	11.8	26.7	16.5	19.3
Andalucía	11.4	26.5	15.0	20.2
Aragón	7.3	20.4	13.4	16.0
Asturias (Principado de)	5.3	24.6	15.7	10.3
Balears (Illes)	10.0	32.1	21.3	21.8
Canarias	14.3	26.1	14.5	19.4
Cantabria	3.4	18.7	11.4	10.1
Castilla y León	7.0	19.7	12.4	9.9
Castilla-La Mancha	8.5	19.1	7.4	11.1
Cataluña	14.2	27.2	16.2	21.0
Comunitat Valenciana	10.5	33.2	20.8	22.6
Extremadura	19.1	14.4	5.5	6.2
Galicia	11.6	18.9	11.9	10.5
Madrid (Comunidad de)	14.7	32.5	24.6	30.6
Murcia (Región de)	11.1	32.1	21.3	28.5
Navarra (Comunidad Foral de)	13.6	25.8	10.9	11.2
País Vasco	12.3	27.7	15.9	13.6
Rioja (La)	10.4	23.0	12.1	11.4
Ceuta y Melilla	19.8	48.0	31.7	28.7

Social participation

Each year, the Quality of Life Survey includes a specific module that allows for studying relevant aspects related to the situation of persons and their socio-economic environment.

In particular, the 2006 survey includes a module aimed at ascertaining the social participation of adults in activities such as going to the cinema, theatre or other similar entertainment, sporting events, etc. Likewise, it enables one to ascertain the frequency with which they contact family or friends, the possibility of asking family, friends or neighbours for help in times of need, and the participation in activities of organisations such as political parties, professional associations, etc.

In general, single (unmarried) persons exhibited the highest level of participation in these activities. Therefore, 34.5% went to the cinema frequently, and 13.3% attended sporting events.

Adults according to their social participation, by marital status

Percentages

	Went more than six times in the last 12 months to:			
	Cinema	Theatre, concert	Places of cultural interest	Sporting events
Total	16.9	5.9	8.5	9.7
Married persons	9.6	4.0	7.8	9.0
Separated/divorced persons	17.0	5.7	9.7	8.3
Widowed persons	2.8	2.5	4.4	1.4
Single persons	34.5	10.5	10.9	13.3

The participation in these activities was greater as the educational level increased. The persons with higher education went more frequently to the theatre (13.1%) and to other places of cultural interest (20.3%).

Adults according to their social participation, by educational level

Percentages

	Went more than six times in the last 12 months to:			
	Cinema	Theatre, concert	Places of cultural interest	Sporting events
Total	16.9	5.9	8.5	9.7
Primary education or lower	3.6	1.5	2.2	4.8
First stage secondary education	14.3	4.1	5.5	10.9
Second stage secondary education	25.7	7.6	9.8	13.3
Higher education	32.3	13.1	20.3	13.2

Regarding the frequency of meeting with friends, the survey revealed that almost half of the persons 16 to 29 years old met daily. However, approximately one out of five persons over 64 years old never met with friends.

Adults according to the frequency of meetings with friends, by age

Percentages

	Daily	Every week	Several times per month	Once a month	At least once a year	Never
Total	26.0	39.0	13.0	7.0	7.0	7.6
16 to 29 years of age	49.4	39.2	6.1	2.1	1.2	1.5
30 to 44 years of age	17.5	46.6	16.3	9.2	6.6	3.6
45 to 64 years of age	16.9	38.7	16.4	9.6	9.8	8.3
65 or older	25.8	27.5	10.8	5.4	10.2	19.9

Most persons (96%) believed that they could ask family, friends or neighbours for help in time of need.

Participation in different associations was related to household income. In general, participation was higher as income level rose, except for participation in activities relating to the church or other religious organisations, in which the said relation was inverted.

Adults who participated in activities in different associations in the last 12 months, by annual household income during the year 2005

Percentages

	Political parties or trade unions	Professional associations	Church or other religious organisations	Groups dedicated to leisure or sporting activities	Charity or humanitarian organisations	Other organisations
Total	3.7	4.4	17.4	13.8	11.2	7.0
Up to 9,000 €	1.6	2.4	28.9	8.9	9.7	6.3
From 9,000 to 14,000 €	1.9	3.0	22.1	11.4	9.0	6.7
14,000 to 19,000 €	2.6	3.1	18.2	11.3	10.7	6.2
19,000 to 25,000 €	3.6	2.8	15.3	12.0	10.8	6.8
25,000 to 35,000 €	4.8	4.8	13.1	15.6	11.7	7.1
More than 35,000 €	5.5	7.7	14.4	18.5	13.4	8.1

Methodological note

The Quality of Life Survey (QLS) is an annual survey aimed at households, and is carried out in all European Union countries. These statistics are harmonised with the European Union (EU), supported by Ruling (EC) No. 1177/2003 of the European Parliament and Council of 16 June 2003 regarding community statistics on income and quality of life.

The QLS was carried out for the first time in 2004, and the first data was released in December 2005. On this occasion, the INE presented the results for the year 2006 with regard to Spain, before their dissemination by Eurostat, with data for all EU countries.

The primary objective of the survey was to provide information on income, the level and composition of poverty and social exclusion in Spain and enable the drawing of comparisons with other European Union countries.

Among its uses, the survey is noteworthy due to it constituting a fundamental reference element for tracking the National Action Plan for Social Inclusion.

The QLS also provides longitudinal information, since it is a panel survey in which the persons interviewed cooperate over several consecutive years. It is thus possible to ascertain the evolution of variables researched over time.

The QLS is specifically designed to obtain information on:

1. Income in private households and generally on their economic situation.
(Information on income refers to the year prior to that of the survey).
2. Poverty, deprivation, social protection and equality of treatment.
3. Employment and activity.
4. Retirements, pensions and socio-economic situation of elderly persons.
5. Dwelling and costs associated with it.
6. Regional development.
7. Level of training, health and effects of both on the socio-economic situation.

In addition to this information, the QLS includes a different thematic module each year in order to tackle social aspects. The 2005 QLS module has supplied data on intergenerational transmission of poverty, while the QLS includes information on social and cultural participation of adults.

Definitions

Net household income

This is the net income received during 2005 by household members. This income is composed of income from employment, profit/loss from freelance work, social benefits, income from capital and property, transfers between other households, income received by children and the outcome of the income tax and tax on wealth return. Non-monetary components are not included, with the exception of company cars.

Net income per unit of consumption of households and personal income

The income per unit of household consumption is calculated taking into account economies of scale in households. It is obtained by dividing total household income by the number of consumption units. These are calculated using the amended OECD scale, which assigns a weight of 1 to the first adult, a weight of 0.5 to remaining adults and a weight of 0.3 to children under 14 years of age.

Once the income per unit of household consumption is calculated, this is assigned to each of its members. This income per consumption unit of persons (or equivalent personal income), they are used to calculate relative poverty measurements.

Relative poverty

The poverty line depends on the distribution of income per consumption unit for persons (giving rise to the term relative poverty, which takes into account the situation of the population to which it belongs). The poverty line is set at 60% of the median income per unit of consumption by persons. The median is the value which, ordering all individuals from lowest to highest income, leaves half of them below the aforementioned value and the other half, above it.

The relative poverty rate is the percentage of persons below the poverty line.

In the results presented, the line for the national group has been used.

The value of the poverty line, expressed as the equivalent income of the person, is established in euros. That is to say, that a person with **an annual income per consumption unit** below this line, is considered to be in relative poverty.

The value of the poverty line, expressed according to the household's total income, depends on the size of the household and the age of its members, that is, the number of consumption units in the household. This is obtained by multiplying 6,860 by the number of consumption units in the household. For example, for a household with one adult, the line is 6,860 euros, for a household with two adults, it is 10,290 euros (or 5,145 euros per person), for a household with two adults and a child under the age of 14 years is 12,348 euros (or 4,116 euros per person), for a household with two adults and two children under the age of 14 years, it is 14,406 euros (or 3,601,5 euros per person), ...

Ability to assume an unexpected expense

The ability of the household to assume an unexpected expense to be 525 euros, relying solely on its own resources, that is, without turning to loans or payment in instalments to assume everyday expenses which were previously paid for at the time of purchase.

Household expenses

Household expenses include: Rent (where the dwelling is rented), mortgage interest (where the property is owned) and other expenses associated with the household (community, repairs, water, electricity, gas, contents insurance, some municipal rates and taxes).

Situation as regards activity

This is the activity which individuals state they have had during the seven or more months prior to the income reference period.

In order to ascertain the number of months worked, a monthly calendar is established, whereby the individual declares his or her activity each month.

Reference person

The reference person is considered to be the person responsible for the household, defined as the household member with the property (owned dwelling) or rental or sublet contract (rented dwelling) in his or her name. If the dwelling is used by the household free of charge, the person responsible for the dwelling will be the person to whom it was granted.

Dependent child

Dependent children are considered to be persons under the age of 16 years, and persons between the ages of 16 and 24 years who are economically inactive and live with at least one of their parents.

Adult

In these statistics, adults are considered to be those persons aged 16 or over on 31 December of the year prior to the carrying out of the survey.

For further information see **INEbase-www.ine.es**All press releases at: **www.ine.es/prensa/prensa.htm**

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