

2 October 2008  
(updated to 31/10/08)

**Survey on the Equipment and Use of Information and Communication Technologies in Households. Year 2008**

**51.0% of households have Internet access, with growth in excess of one million households in one year**

**Frequent Internet users exceed 17 million people, and the total number of Internet users increases 11.0%**

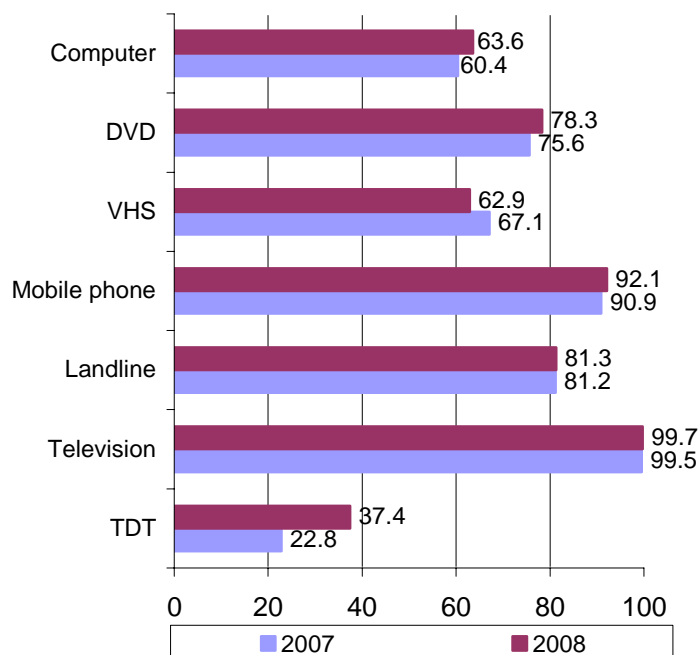
**37.4% of dwellings has TDT reception, almost 15 points up on 2007**

**63.6% of households with at least one member between the ages of 16 and 74 years old has a computer in 2008.** This percentage is 3.2 points higher than last year.

By type of computer, 52.2% of households have desktop computers or PCs, while 26.6% have laptops. Between 2007 and 2008 we observe no movement in the level of PC equipment in households and an increase in laptops of more than six points.

By Autonomous Community, the greatest amount of equipment in computers in households is observed in Comunidad de Madrid (71.9%), Cataluña (71.0%), País Vasco (66.4%) and Comunidad Foral de Navarra (66.3%).

**Household equipment regarding ICT products.  
Years 2007 and 2008. (% of households)**



99.2% of households have a telephone, either a landline or a mobile phone. 74.1% of households have both a landline and a mobile phone. 7.2% of households only have a landline, whereas 18.0% of households only have mobile phones for communication from the household.

**The implementation of landline telephones has remained stable in the last year. Conversely, the implementation of mobile phones has increased 1.2 points, and is now available in 92.1% of households.**

78.3% of households have DVDs. This increase is in detriment of VCRs, which have reduced their coverage by four points in the last year.

Television coverage is practically universal (99.7% of households). It is worth highlighting that 21.4% of dwellings with a television can receive television channels via a satellite dish (one half of a point more than one year ago), 15.0% via cable and 4.6% via ADSL or a telephone line. Two years from the analogue shutdown, foreseen for April 2010, **37.4% of households have terrestrial digital television reception (TDT), almost 15 points up on 2007.** Of these, 32.5% have a television with TDT incorporated, though it is more common to receive the signal via an external decoder (two out of every three dwellings receive the TDT signal this way).

## Dwellings with Internet access

44.6% of Spanish households have Internet access, as compared with 44.6% from the previous year. **In Spain there are 7.7 million family dwellings with Internet access,** representing an increase of more than one million households as compared with the year 2007.

**43.5% of households (almost 6.7 million dwellings) have a broadband Internet connection** (ADSL, cable network, etc.), representing an increase of approximately 964,000 households as compared with the previous year.

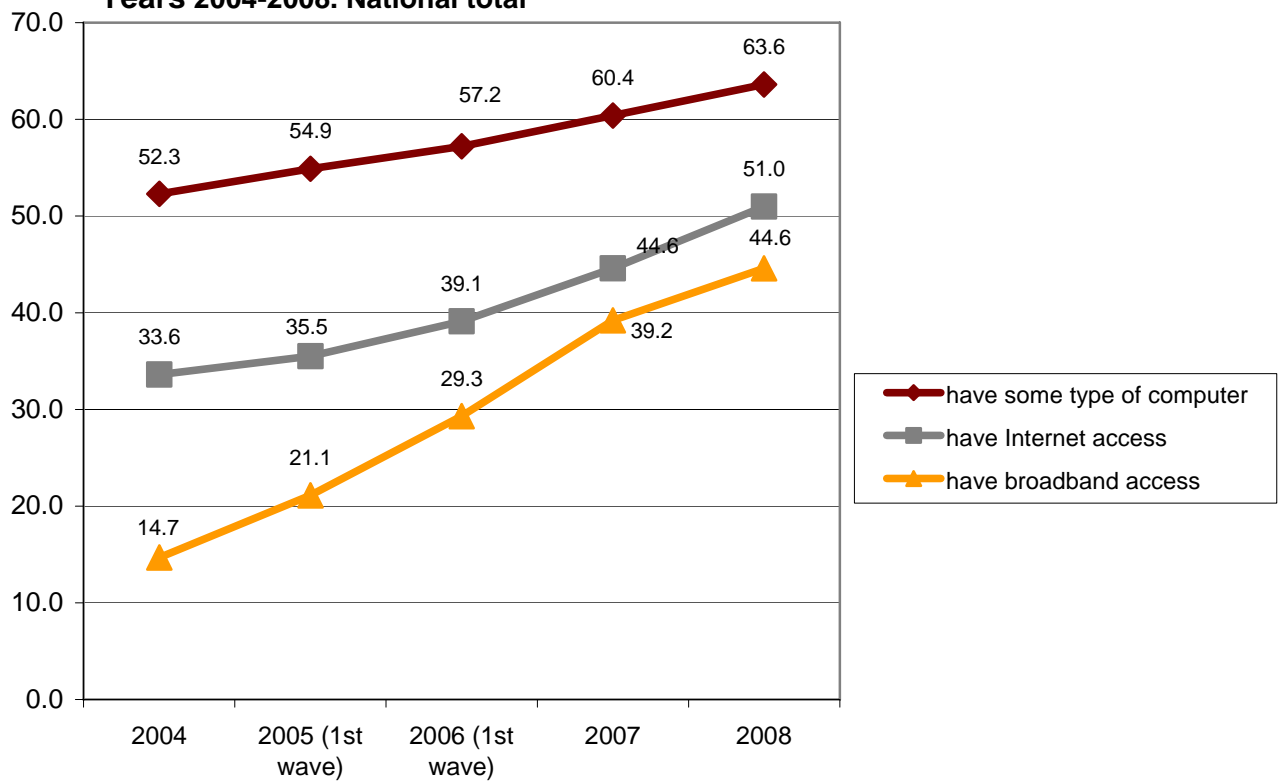
The main forms of broadband Internet connection are by ADSL line (which 69.6% of dwellings with Internet access have) and cable network (15.1%). Of other forms of connection, the most frequent are dial-up modems or RDSI (13.1%).

The main equipment used in dwellings for connecting to the Internet are desktop computers (78.6% of dwellings), laptops (40.0%) and mobile phones (8.2%). Access via other types of computer, such as electronic organisers or PDAs, or via television or videoconsole, is less than 4.0% in each case.

The Autonomous Communities with the highest percentage of dwellings with Internet access are Comunidad de Madrid (62.3%) and Cataluña (60.1%). In addition, País Vasco, Comunidad Foral de Navarra, Illes Balears, Cantabria, Principado de Asturias, Canarias, Aragón and La Rioja show a rate higher than 50.0%.

The main reasons for households not having Internet access are fundamentally that they do not believe that they need one (55.5% give this as the reason) and that they have too little knowledge to use it (26.1%).

**Evolution of ICT equipment in dwellings.  
Years 2004-2008. National total**



**Use of ICT by children**

The proportion of ICT use by the underage population (10 to 15 years old) is, in general, very high. Thus, computer use among the young is practically universal (94.1%), while 82.2% use the Internet.

By sex, the differences detected in previous years regarding computer and Internet use by boys and girls, in favour of the latter, has practically disappeared in 2008.

In terms of availability of mobile phones, the degree of penetration of this apparatus among the underage population (65.8%) remains significantly lower than that for other, older age groups. By sex, however, there still are differences in the availability of mobile phones, in favour of girls, although in 2008, this has decreased by almost three points.

**Percentage of children using ICT by sex**

Year 2007 and 2008

	Computer use	Internet use	Mobile phone use
<b>Total</b>			
2007	92.8	76.8	64.7
2008	94.1	82.2	65.8
<b>Girls</b>			
2007	93.9	78.4	70.1
2008	94.3	82.2	69.7
<b>Boys</b>			
2007	91.7	75.3	59.6
2008	93.9	82.3	62.1

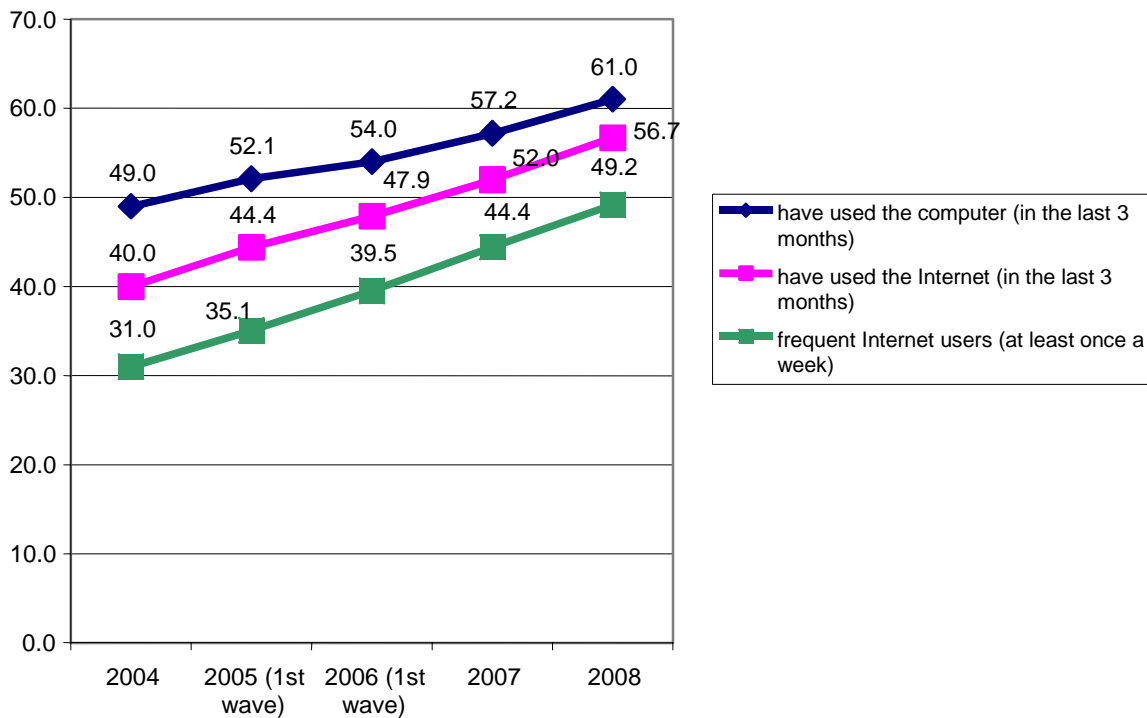
**ICT use by persons aged 16 to 74 years old**

**More than 21 million persons, 61.0% of the population, have used a computer in the last three months.** This figure is almost four points higher than that recorded for the year 2007.

56.7% of the population aged 16 to 74 years old has used the Internet in the last three months, that is, more than 19.5 million persons. **The number of Internet users has increased 11.3% with regard to 2007.**

**Frequent users**, in other words, those who access the Internet on a daily basis or at least once a week, represent 86.7% of the total Internet users. These frequent users represent, approximately, 17 million persons and **49.2% of the population, which indicates an interannual increase of 13.2%.**

**Evolution of ICT use by persons aged 16 to 74 years old  
Years 2004-2008.**



On the other hand, the percentage of persons who have made online purchases in the last three months has experienced an increase of three tenths in the past year, and stands at 13.3% of the population.

**Use of ICT by nationality**

Although the percentage of Spaniards using computers is one point lower than that of foreign nationals, use of the Internet is similar for both groups.

Considering frequency, we can observe a greater difference, since **Spanish frequent Internet users exceed foreign nationals by five points.**

We observe, in turn, that foreign nationals make greater use of mobile phones.

**Percentage of ICT users by nationality**

Year 2008

	Persons who have used a computer in the last 3 months	Persons who have used the Internet in the last 3 months	Frequent Internet users (at least once per week)	Persons who have used a mobile phone
<b>Total</b>	61.0	56.7	49.2	88.8
Spanish	60.9	56.7	49.5	88.4
Foreign	61.9	56.8	44.6	94.3

The percentage of Spaniards accessing the Internet from home is much higher than that of foreign nationals (78.6% as compared with 62.3%) and the same occurs if access is from the workplace (45.6% as compared with 19.9%). Conversely, **35.2% of foreign nationals access the Internet from Internet cafés or similar, as compared with 7.0% of Spaniards.**

**Percentage of Internet users by nationality and place of use.**

Year 2008

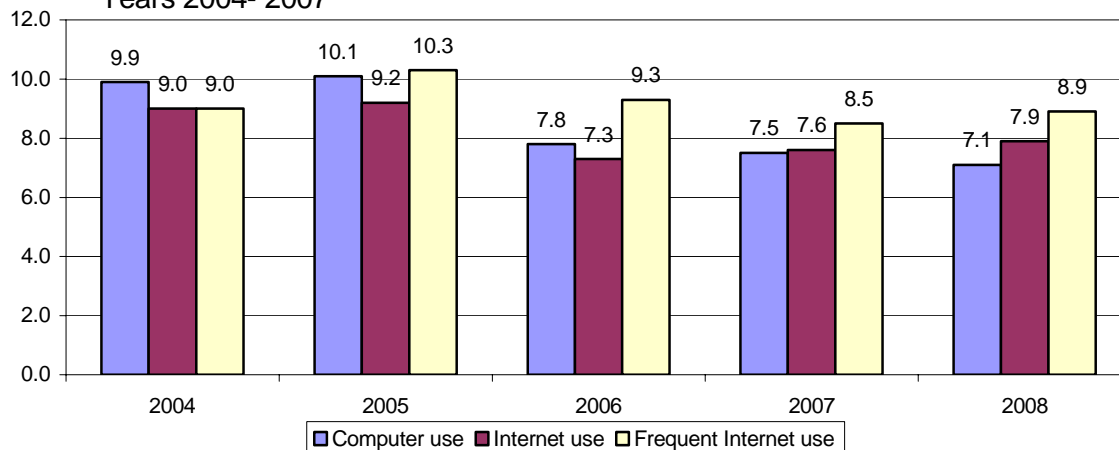
	From their dwelling	From other family members' or friends' dwellings	From the workplace	From the educational centre	From an Internet café or similar	From a public library
<b>Total</b>	77.6	25.2	43.9	12.4	8.8	6.7
Spanish	78.6	25.7	45.6	12.8	7.0	6.9
Foreign	62.3	18.4	19.9	5.9	35.2	3.8

**The digital gap**

The digital gender gap (that is, the difference in percentage points between the sexes as regards the main ICT use indicators) has decreased in 2008 in computer use. However, it has increased in Internet access and frequent users.

**The digital gap by sex (percentage difference between men and women).**

Years 2004- 2007



## The use of ICT by Autonomous Community

The Autonomous Communities above the average in Spain for computer and Internet use are Illes Balears, Cantabria, Cataluña, Comunidad de Madrid, Comunidad Foral de Navarra and País Vasco.

Aragón exceeds the national average in the indicators referring to computer use. Canarias exceeds the national average in the indicators referring to computer and Internet use in the last three months, and La Rioja does likewise in the percentage of frequent Internet users.

## Percentage of ICT users by Autonomous Community

Year 2007

	Persons who have used a computer in the last 3 months	Persons who have used the Internet in the last 3 months	Frequent Internet users (at least once per week)	Persons who have used a mobile phone
<b>National total</b>	<b>61.0</b>	<b>56.7</b>	<b>49.2</b>	<b>88.8</b>
Andalucía	55.5	<b>50.7</b>	<b>43.7</b>	86.8
Aragón	<b>62.7</b>	55.7	48.8	87.8
Asturias (Principado de)	60.2	54.9	47.5	<b>89.0</b>
Balears (Illes)	<b>63.6</b>	<b>60.6</b>	<b>52.2</b>	<b>90.5</b>
Canarias	<b>61.4</b>	<b>57.6</b>	47.5	87.5
Cantabria	<b>61.4</b>	<b>57.2</b>	<b>50.2</b>	88.6
Castilla y León	57.9	52.3	45.0	87.8
Castilla-La Mancha	56.1	<b>50.5</b>	<b>43.7</b>	84.2
Cataluña	<b>68.0</b>	<b>64.2</b>	<b>59.1</b>	<b>91.2</b>
Comunitat Valenciana	58.6	55.6	46.4	<b>89.7</b>
Extremadura	<b>49.5</b>	<b>43.5</b>	<b>36.3</b>	88.4
Galicia	<b>52.1</b>	<b>47.6</b>	<b>37.9</b>	81.9
Madrid (Comunidad de)	<b>70.0</b>	<b>67.0</b>	<b>59.0</b>	<b>93.1</b>
Murcia (Región de)	<b>53.4</b>	<b>48.7</b>	<b>40.1</b>	<b>89.3</b>
Navarra (Comunidad Foral de)	<b>65.2</b>	<b>59.0</b>	<b>49.2</b>	87.7
País Vasco	<b>63.7</b>	<b>59.5</b>	51.5	88.5
Rioja (La)	60.0	56.1	<b>50.0</b>	87.5
Ceuta	56.5	54.7	46.8	<b>77.5</b>
Melilla	55.8	<b>48.6</b>	<b>39.3</b>	86.6

Notes:

Figures greater than or equal to the national average are shaded in grey

Figures less than 90% of the national average are in bold print

Extremadura, Galicia and Murcia did not reach 90.0% of the national average in any of the indicators considered. Andalucía and Castilla-La Mancha were below the 90.0% threshold in Internet use.

As regards mobile phone use, no Community was below 90.0% of the national average. Comunidad de Madrid, Principado de Asturias and the Communities in the Mediterranean area (Illes Balears, Cataluña, Comunitat Valenciana and Murcia) surpass the said average.

## **Use of advanced Internet and mobile telephony services**

The main Internet services used for personal reasons have been information searches for goods and services (82.0% of Internet users), e-mail (81.9%) and the use of services related to travel and accommodation - information, reservations, purchases... - (61.8%).

On the other hand, in the past three months **half of users obtained information from authority websites**, 27.4% downloaded official forms and 16% completed and submitted them. If, rather than choosing the reference period from the past three months, the past 12 months is chosen, in order to avoid seasonable adjustment problems, the percentage of Internet users interacting with public authorities increases by at least six additional points in each of the aforementioned options.

As regards advanced online communication services, instant messaging (for example, messenger) is used by 53.8% of Internet users, 31% have read blogs and 25.6% of Internet users in the last three months have posted on chatrooms, news groups or online forums.

As regards leisure activities relating to audiovisual content, in 2008, 52.4% of Internet users have downloaded and/or listened to music on sites other than online radio broadcasts, 41.6% have downloaded and/or watched films or videos on sites other than online television broadcasts, and 41.1% are online radio listeners or television viewers. **One third of Internet users use peer-to-peer (exchange of films, music, videos,..) file-sharing applications.**

### **5.9% of Internet-users in the past three months have paid for audiovisual content over the Internet (music, films, videos,..).**

As regards the degree to which traditional activities have been replaced by Internet use, 45.3% of Internet-users have replaced reading of printed news, newspapers, and magazines with online reading on at least one occasion, and 37.6% have switched from personal contact with the public services and authorities to online contact. **Purchasing of CDs has been replaced by online downloading on at least one occasion by 37.0% of Internet users; purchasing or hiring of videos, by 30.4%** and 29.1% have listened to the radio online rather than listening to traditional radio.

As regards use of advanced mobile telephony services, aside from voice calls or SMS messages, the ones most used are the sending of photographs or videoclips (23.5% of mobile telephone users), surfing online (6.7%) and reading email (3.5%).

The most frequent mobile telephony payment modality is by contract (two out of three people with mobile phones stated this form of payment), but only 6.5% have an un-metered rate contract for accessing the Internet.

## The use of ICT in the European Union

The countries that have ICT indicators that are higher than the community average are located, for the most part, in Northern Europe, according to the data corresponding to the year 2007, the last year in which information was available from Eurostat.

Conversely, most countries that do not reach 90.0% of the community average in ICT indicators are located in the Mediterranean area or have recently joined the European Union.

### Percentage of ICT users in the European Union countries

Year 2007

Country	Have used the computer in the last three months	Have used the Internet in the last three months	Frequent Internet users (at least once per week)
<b>European Union</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>51</b>
Belgium	70	67	63
Bulgaria	<b>35</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>28</b>
Czech Republic	<b>55</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>42</b>
Denmark	84	81	76
Germany	78	72	64
Estonia	65	64	59
Greece	<b>40</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Spain<sup>1</sup></b>	(57) 61	(52) 57	(44) 49
France	69	64	57
Ireland	62	57	51
Italy	<b>43</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>34</b>
Cyprus	<b>47</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>35</b>
Latvia	58	55	52
Lithuania	<b>52</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>45</b>
Luxembourg	80	78	72
Hungary	58	52	49
Malta	<b>48</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>43</b>
Netherlands	87	84	81
Austria	73	67	61
Poland	<b>52</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>39</b>
Portugal	<b>46</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>35</b>
Rumania	<b>34</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>22</b>
Slovenia	58	53	49
Slovakia	64	56	51
Finland	81	79	75
Sweden	88	80	75
United Kingdom	78	72	65

Source: Eurostat

<sup>1</sup> Spain: data from 2008. In parenthesis, the data from 2007.

The cells with figures above the average are shaded in grey.

The figures below 90% of the Community average are in bold type.

For further information see [INEbase-www.ine.es/en/welcome\\_en.htm](http://INEbase-www.ine.es/en/welcome_en.htm) All press releases at: [www.ine.es/en/prensa/prensa\\_en.htm](http://www.ine.es/en/prensa/prensa_en.htm)

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## **Methodological note**

The ICT-H 2008 Survey on Information and Communication Technologies Equipment and Use in Households has been carried out by the National Statistics Institute (INE) in cooperation with the Statistics Institute of Cataluña (IDESCAT), the Statistics Institute of Andalucía (IEA) the Statistics Institute of Navarra (IEN) and the Statistics Institute of Cantabria (ICANE) within the scope of their respective Autonomous Communities. Likewise, the INE has signed a cooperation agreement with the Fundación Centro Tecnológico de la Información y Comunicación (Information and Communication Technologies Foundation Centre - CTIC) in Principado de Asturias.

There is also a cooperation agreement with the Ministry of Industry, Tourism and Trade, through public business entity Red.es for researching certain information society indicators.

The Survey follows the methodological recommendations of the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat). It is the only source of its kind whose data are strictly comparable not only among Member States of the Union, but also among other international scopes.

The Survey (ICT-H 2008) is a panel-type investigation that focuses on persons aged 10 and over residing in family dwellings, and collects information on household equipment as regards information and communication technologies (television, telephone, radio, IT equipment) and the use of computers, the Internet and e-commerce.

In 2005 and 2006 the survey was six-monthly, but in 2007 it returned to a yearly frequency. Interviews are carried out in the second quarter of the year, by telephone or by personal interview.

For each Autonomous Community an independent sample is designed to represent it, given that one of the objectives of the survey is to facilitate data on that breakdown level.

A stratified tri-stage sample type is used. The first-stage units are the census sections. The second-stage units are main family dwellings. In the third stage, one person aged 16 or over is selected from each dwelling; likewise, information is obtained on all children aged 10 to 15 residing in the dwelling. The theoretical size of the sample is more than 25,000 dwellings, one quarter of which is renewed each year.

Ratio estimators are used, to which calibrating techniques are applied with the use of external information obtained from population projections by age group and sex.

A survey variable consistency control is performed on the sample, both in the data collection process (microedition) and in the subsequent information processing.

Although the population scope has not varied as compared with previous surveys, it is important to mention that, for the purpose of achieving a greater comparability with the data published by Eurostat, the results published on the INE website refer to dwellings inhabited by at least one person aged 16 to 74 and persons of that same age group. Likewise, the data concerning minors refers to the group aged 10 to 15 (the group researched previously was aged 10 to 14). Nonetheless, there is also a microdata file with the complete survey information.