

25 November 2020
(Modified 27 November)

**Survey on Water Supply and Sewerage
Year 2018**

The average water consumption of households was 133 litres per inhabitant per day, 2.2% less than in 2016

The unit cost of water fell by 2.0%, to 1.91 euros per cubic metre.

During 2018, 4,236 cubic hectometres (hm³) of water were supplied to the public urban supply networks. Approximately three-quarters (3,188 hm³) were volumes of recorded water, that is, measured in the users' meters. The rest (1,048 hm³) were volumes of unrecorded water (not measured or estimated by gauging).

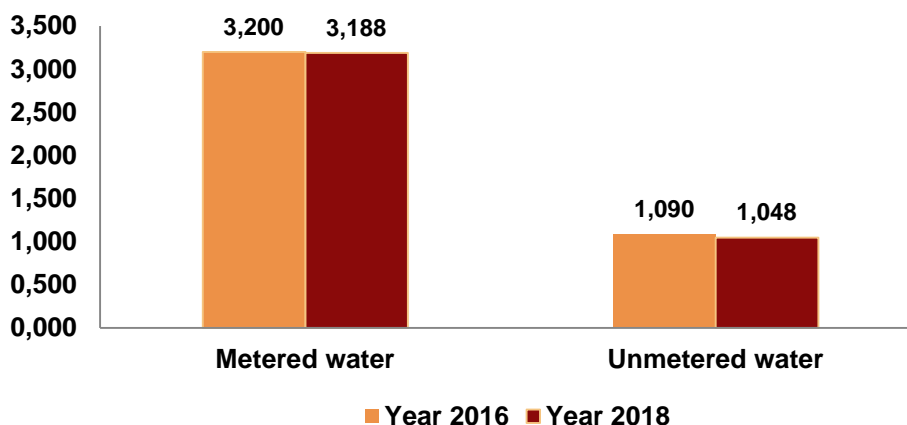
Volumes of water supplied to public networks

Unit: cubic hectometres (hm³)

	Year 2018	% biennial rate
Metered water	3,188	-0.4
Unmetered water	1,048	-3.9
Total	4,236	-1.3

Volumes of metered and unmetered water

Unit: hm³



By type of user, household water consumption decreased by 1.1% compared to 2016, and that of the economic sectors decreased by 0.5%. On the other hand, municipal consumption increased 6.5%.

Volumes of metered water supplied to users

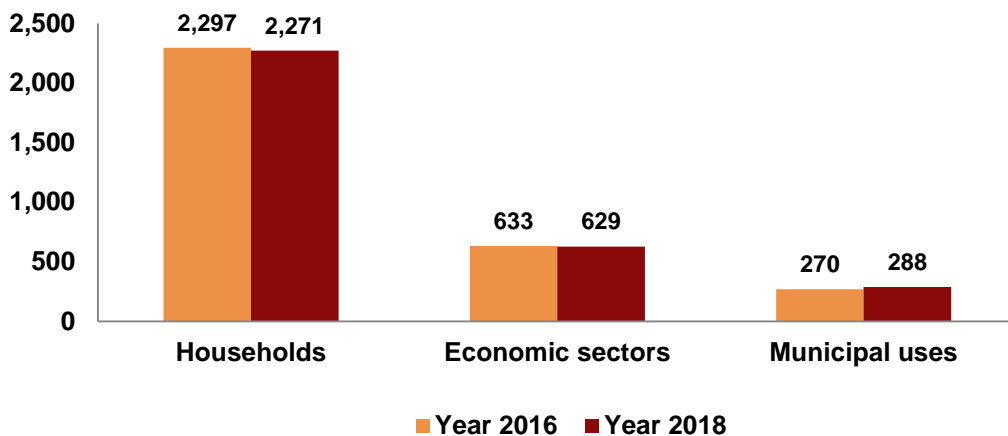
Unit: cubic hectometres

	Year 2018	% of the total	% biennial rate
Households	2,271	71.2	-1.1
Economic sectors	629	19.8	-0.5
Municipal uses	288	9.0	6.5
Total	3,188	100	-0.4

Unrecorded water is broken down into real and apparent losses. Real losses (leaks, breaks and failures in the supply network) were estimated at 653 hm³, which represented 15.4% of the total water supplied to these networks. On the other hand, apparent losses (measurement errors, fraud and unmeasured authorised consumption) were 395 hm³.

Volumes of metered water supplied to users

Unit: cubic hectometres



Average household water consumption

Average household water consumption was 133 litres per inhabitant per day in 2018, representing a decrease of 2.2% compared with the 136 litres recorded in 2016¹.

¹ Average household water consumption is calculated as the quotient between the total volume of water recorded and distributed to households and the population. The resident population figures published by the INE have been used.

Unit cost of water

The unit cost of water stood at 1.91 euros per cubic metre, with a decrease of 2.0% compared to 2016 (when it was 1.95 euros). This cost is defined as the quotient between the amounts paid for the water supply plus the amounts paid for sewerage, treatment and sanitation or discharge fees, and the volume of water recorded and distributed to users.

For its part, the unit cost of water supply reached 1.13 euros per cubic metre, 3.4% less than in 2016 (which was 1.17 euros), while that of sanitation (sewerage, treatment, sanitation and discharge fees) was 0.78 euros, the same as two years earlier.

Unit cost of water

Unit: euros/m³

	Year 2018	% biennial rate
Supply	1.13	-3.4
Sanitation	0.78	0.0
Total unit cost	1.91	-2.0

Origin of the water collected

With regard to the origin of the water, 64.3% of the volume collected by the companies and public bodies supplying water came from surface water, and 30.9% originated from groundwater.

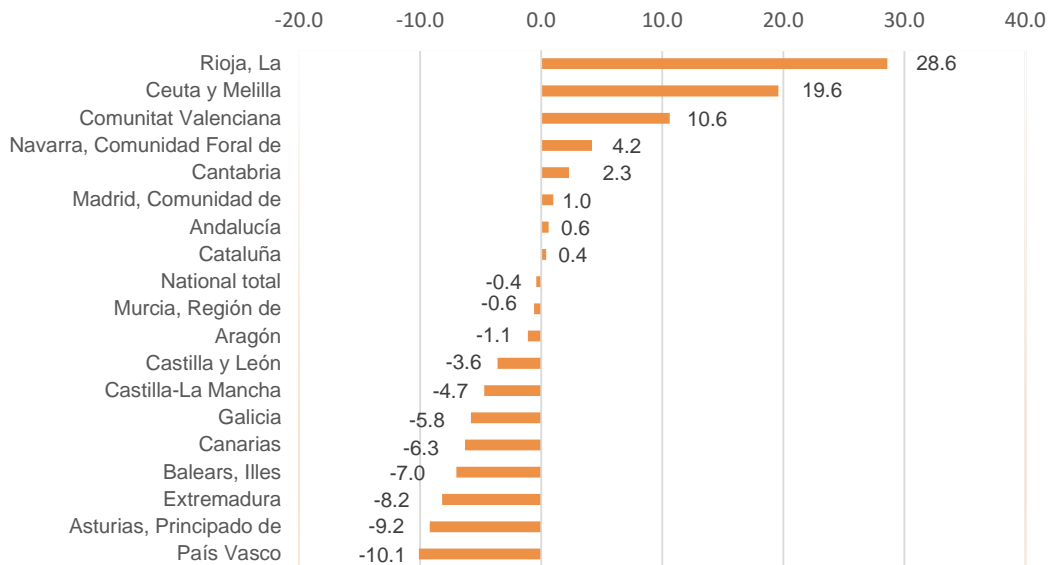
The remaining 4.8% came from other types of water (desalinated from the sea or brackish).

Results by Autonomous Communities

The autonomous communities that most increased the volume of water recorded and distributed to users during 2018 were La Rioja (28.6%), Comunitat Valenciana (10.6%) and Comunidad Foral de Navarra (4.2%).

On the other hand, those with the greatest reduction compared to 2016 were País Vasco (-10.1%), Principado de Asturias (-9.2%) and Extremadura (-8.2%).

Biennial percentage rate of the volumes metered and supplied to users, by Autonomous Community



The Autonomous Communities that distributed the greatest volume of water in 2018 were Andalucía (17.1% of the total), Cataluña (14.7%) and Comunidad de Madrid (13.2%). At the other extreme were La Rioja (0.9% of the total), Cantabria (1.5%) and Comunidad Foral de Navarra (1.6%).

Volumes of metered water supplied to users by Autonomous Community

Unit: Thousand of m³

	Year 2018	% of the total	% biennial rate
Andalucía	544,382	17.1	0.6
Aragón	101,723	3.2	-1.1
Asturias, Principado de	76,093	2.4	-9.2
Balears, Illes	87,576	2.7	-7.0
Canarias	147,470	4.6	-6.3
Cantabria	46,548	1.5	2.3
Castilla y León	185,204	5.8	-3.6
Castilla-La Mancha	143,020	4.5	-4.7
Cataluña	467,324	14.7	0.4
Comunitat Valenciana	407,669	12.8	10.6
Extremadura	67,141	2.1	-8.2
Galicia	176,868	5.5	-5.8
Madrid, Comunidad de	421,750	13.2	1.0
Murcia, Región de	103,322	3.2	-0.6
Navarra, Comunidad Foral de	51,586	1.6	4.2
País Vasco	122,753	3.9	-10.1
Rioja, La	27,290	0.9	28.6
Ceuta y Melilla	10,336	0.3	19.6
National total	3,188,055	100	-0.4

In 2018, the Autonomous Communities with the highest consumption of water recorded and distributed to households were Andalucía (17.3% of the total), Cataluña (14.9%) and Comunitat Valenciana (13.9%).

As for consumption by economic sectors, the Autonomous Communities with the greatest volumes were Andalucía (17.4% of the total), Cataluña (14.8%) and Comunidad de Madrid (10.8%).

On the other hand, the Autonomous Communities with the highest municipal consumption were Comunidad de Madrid (18.3% of the total), Andalucía (14.9%) and Comunitat Valenciana (13.6%),

Volumes of metered water supplied by type to users by Autonomous Community

Unit: thousand of m³

	Households	% of the total	Economic sectors	% of the total	Municipal uses	% of the total
Andalucía	392,141	17.3	109,319	17.5	42,922	14.9
Aragón	62,011	2.7	28,412	4.5	11,300	3.9
Asturias, Principado de	52,402	2.3	18,334	2.9	5,357	1.9
Balears, Illes	52,131	2.3	30,079	4.8	5,366	1.9
Canarias	108,094	4.8	30,479	4.8	8,897	3.1
Cantabria	36,437	1.6	9,561	1.5	550	0.2
Castilla y León	130,224	5.7	36,540	5.8	18,440	6.4
Castilla-La Mancha	99,940	4.4	25,640	4.1	17,440	6.1
Cataluña	337,996	14.9	92,942	14.8	36,386	12.7
Comunitat Valenciana	315,744	13.9	52,749	8.4	39,176	13.6
Extremadura	49,199	2.2	7,973	1.3	9,969	3.5
Galicia	123,318	5.4	42,574	6.8	10,976	3.8
Madrid, Comunidad de	301,111	13.3	67,964	10.8	52,675	18.3
Murcia, Región de	80,697	3.6	17,254	2.7	5,371	1.9
Navarra, Comunidad Fo	26,798	1.2	15,793	2.5	8,995	3.1
País Vasco	82,150	3.6	32,956	5.2	7,647	2.7
Rioja, La	13,259	0.6	9,736	1.5	4,295	1.5
Ceuta y Melilla	7,553	0.3	951	0.1	1,832	0.5
National total	2,271,225	100	629,256	100	287,594	100

Average household water consumption by Autonomous Community

Average household water consumption was highest in the Valencian Community (175 litres per inhabitant per day), Cantabria (172) and Región de Murcia (149).

On the other hand, the lowest averages were registered in País Vasco (104 litres per inhabitant per day), Comunidad Foral de Navarra (114) and La Rioja (116).

Average household water consumption by Autonomous Community

Unit: litres/inhabitant/day

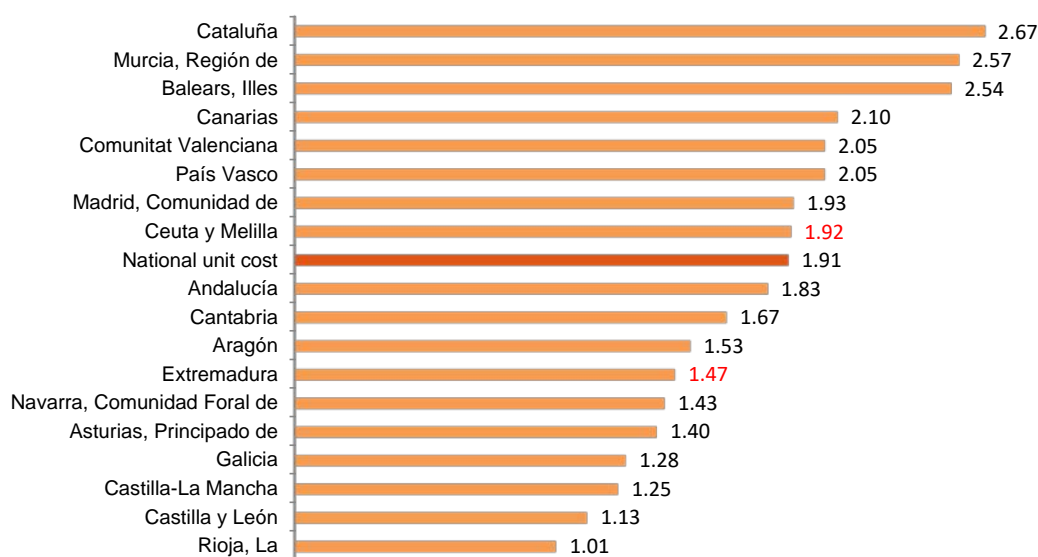
	Year 2018	% biennial rate
Andalucía	128	-0.7
Aragón	129	-5.8
Asturias, Principado de	140	-6.7
Balears, Illes	121	-9.7
Canarias	135	-10.0
Cantabria	172	11.0
Castilla y León	148	-2.6
Castilla-La Mancha	135	5.5
Cataluña	123	-3.1
Comunitat Valenciana	175	7.4
Extremadura	126	-2.4
Galicia	125	-9.4
Madrid, Comunidad de	125	-6.0
Murcia, Región de	149	12.9
Navarra, Comunidad Foral de	114	1.8
País Vasco	104	-7.1
Rioja, La	116	0.9
Ceuta y Melilla	119	15.5
National average consumption	133	-2.2

Unit cost of water by Autonomous Community

The highest values of the unit cost of water in 2018 were recorded in Cataluña (2.67 euros per cubic metre), Región de Murcia (2.57) and Illes Balears (2.54). The lowest were in La Rioja (1.01), Castilla y León (1.13), and Castilla La Mancha (1.25).

Unit cost of water by Autonomous Community

Unit: euros/m²



Data Review and Update

The data published today are final. All results are available on INEBase.

Methodological note

The objective of the Survey on Water Supply and Sewage is to quantify in physical units and value in economic magnitudes the activities related to the integral water cycle, which is formed by the collection of water, the supply of water, and the sanitation (sewerage and purification) of wastewater.

Likewise, it provides the information necessary to prepare the satellite water accounts and satisfies the demand for this type of data from national and international bodies, companies in the sector and Public Administrations.

Synthesis indicators are also developed to facilitate interpretation of the physical estimates obtained by the survey for users (consumption and length of networks per inhabitant, real water losses per kilometre of network, etc.), as well as monetary indicators, such as the unit costs of water.

Type of survey: biennial structural survey.

Population scope: the population under study is the set of units that provide, whether or not as a main activity, the services classified in the CNAE-2009 in divisions 36 (Water collection, treatment and supply) and 37 (Sewerage).

Geographical scope: the entire national territory.

Reference period: the calendar year.

Sample size: 395 reporting units that provide 87% coverage for the resident population in Spain as of July 1, 2018.

Type of sampling: geographical coverage (population).

Collection method: questionnaire completed by the respondent (internet/paper).

Review and update of data The data published today is final. All results are available on INEBase.

For more information the methodology can be accessed at:

https://www.ine.es/dyngs/INEbase/es/operacion.htm?c=Estadistica_C&cid=1254736176834&menu=metodologia&idp=1254735976602

The standardized methodological report is at:

<http://www.ine.es/dynt3/metadatos/es/RespuestaDatos.html?oe=30077>

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Press office: **Phone Numbers: 91 583 93 63 /94 08** — gprensa@ine.es

Information Area: **Phone Number: 91 583 91 00** – www.ine.es/infoline
