

27 July 2022

**Survey on Water Supply and Sewerage  
Year 2020**

**The average water consumption of households was 133 litres per inhabitant per day, the same as in 2018**

**The unit cost of water increased by 0.5%, to 1.92 euros per cubic metre.**

During 2020, 4,243 cubic hectometres (hm<sup>3</sup>) of water were supplied to the public urban supply networks, 0,2% more than in 2018. Approximately three-quarters (3,178 hm<sup>3</sup>) were volumes of recorded water, that is, measured in the users' meters. The rest (1,065 hm<sup>3</sup>) were volumes of unrecorded water (not measured or estimated by gauging).

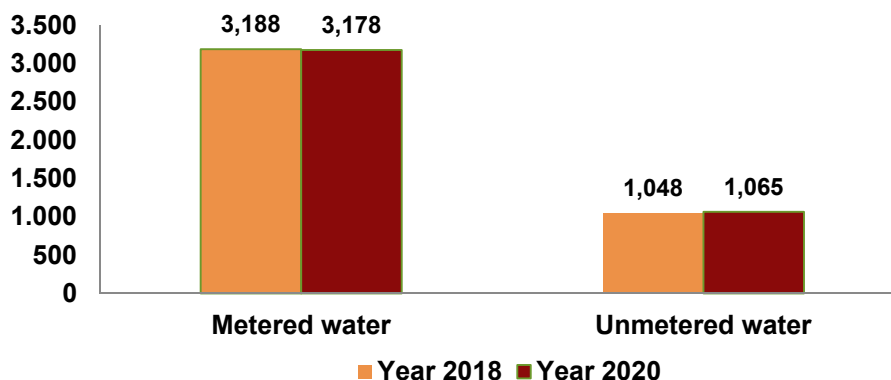
**Volumes of water supplied to public network**

Unit: (hm<sup>3</sup>)

	<b>Year 2020</b>	<b>% biennial rate</b>
Metered water	3,178	-0.3
Unmetered water	1,065	1.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,243</b>	<b>0.2</b>

**Volumes of metered and unmetered water**

Unit: hm<sup>3</sup>



By type of user, household water consumption increased by 0.9% compared to 2018, and that of the economic sectors decreased by 2.1%. On the other hand, municipal uses decreased 5.9%.

## Volumes of metered water supplied to users

Unit: hm<sup>3</sup>

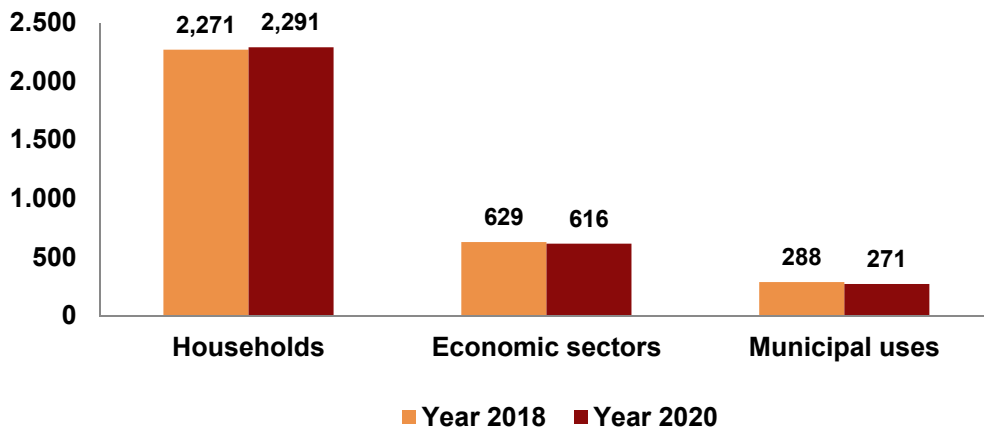
	Year 2020	% of the total	% biennial rate
Households	2,291	72.1	0.9
Economic sectors	616	19.4	-2.1
Municipal uses	271	8.5	-5.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,178</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>-0.3</b>

Unrecorded water is broken down into real and apparent losses. Real losses (leaks, breaks and failures in the supply network) were estimated at 652 hm<sup>3</sup>, 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 413 hm<sup>3</sup>.

## Volumes of metered water supplied to users

Unit: hm<sup>3</sup>



## Average household water consumption

Average household water consumption was 133 litres per inhabitant per day in 2020, which was the same consumption as in 2018<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> 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 1.92 euros per cubic metre, with an increase of 0.5% compared to 2018. 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 1.14 euros per cubic metre, 0.9% more than in 2018, while that of sanitation (sewerage, treatment, sanitation and discharge fees) was 0.78 euros, the same as 2018.

## Unit cost of water

Unit: euros/m<sup>3</sup>

	Year 2020	% biennial rate
Supply	1.14	0.9
Sanitation	0.78	0.0
<b>Total unit cost</b>	<b>1.92</b>	<b>0.5</b>

## Origin of the water abstracted

With regard to the origin of the water, 66.5% of the volume collected by the companies and public bodies supplying water came from surface water, and 27.6% originated from groundwater.

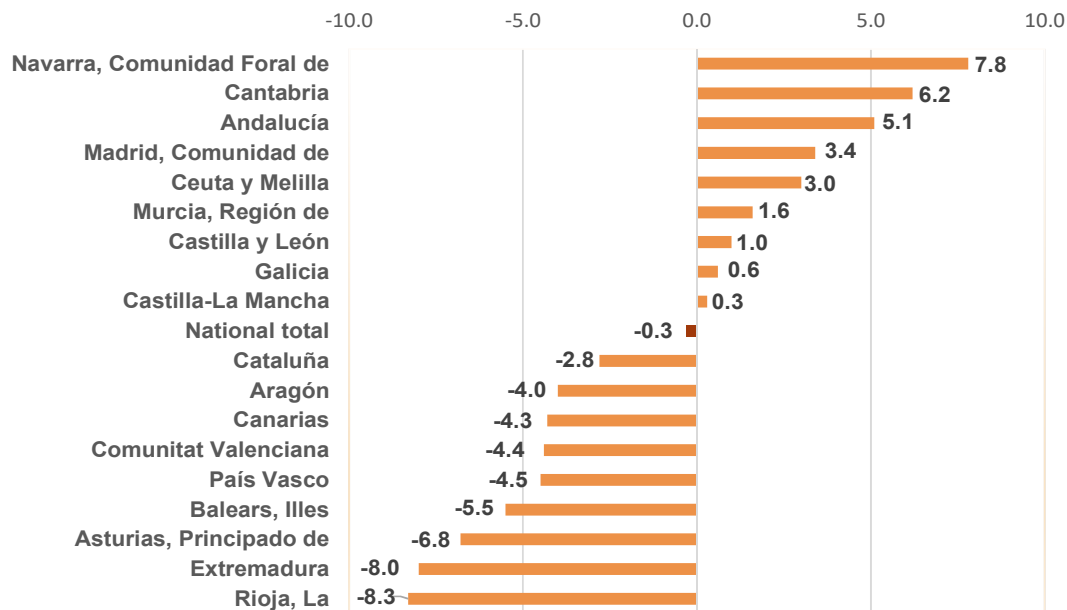
The remaining 5.9% came from other types of water (desalinated from the sea or brackish).

## Results by Autonomous Communities

The autonomous communities that most increased the volume of water recorded and distributed to users during 2020 compared to 2018, were Comunidad Foral de Navarra (7.8%), Cantabria (6.2%) and Andalucía (5.1%).

On the other hand, those with the greatest reduction compared to 2018 were La Rioja (-8.3%), and Extremadura (-8.0%) and Principado de Asturias (-6.8%).

**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 2020 were Andalucía (18.0% of the total), Cataluña (14.3%) and Comunidad de Madrid (13.7%). At the other extreme, were La Rioja (0.8% of the total), Cantabria (1.6%) and Comunidad Foral de Navarra (1.8%).

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

Unit: Thousand of m<sup>3</sup>

	Year 2020	% of the total	% biennial rate
Andalucía	571,979	18.0	5.1
Aragón	97,701	3.1	-4.0
Asturias, Principado de	70,895	2.2	-6.8
Balears, Illes	82,743	2.6	-5.5
Canarias	141,190	4.4	-4.3
Cantabria	49,457	1.6	6.2
Castilla y León	187,076	5.9	1.0
Castilla-La Mancha	143,427	4.5	0.3
Cataluña	454,227	14.3	-2.8
Ceuta y Melilla	10,651	0.3	3.0
Comunitat Valenciana	389,668	12.3	-4.4
Extremadura	61,740	1.9	-8.0
Galicia	177,892	5.6	0.6
Madrid, Comunidad de	436,216	13.7	3.4
Murcia, Región de	105,007	3.3	1.6
Navarra, Comunidad Foral	55,632	1.8	7.8
País Vasco	117,282	3.7	-4.5
Rioja, La	25,032	0.8	-8.3
<b>National total</b>	<b>3,177,815</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>-0.3</b>

The Autonomous Communities with the highest consumption of water recorded and distributed to households were Andalucía (18.7% of the total), Cataluña (15.1%) and Comunidad de Madrid (13.9%).

As for consumption by economic sectors, the Autonomous Communities with the greatest volumes were Andalucía (16.7% of the total), Cataluña (13.7%) and Comunidad de Madrid (10.3%).

On the other hand, the Autonomous Communities with the highest municipal uses were Comunidad de Madrid (20.3% of the total), Comunitat Valenciana (15.8%) and Andalucía (15.1%).

## Volumes of metered water supplied by type of users and Autonomous Community

Unit: thousand of m<sup>3</sup>

	Households	% of the total	Economic sectors	% of the total	Municipal uses	% of the total
Andalucía	427,534	18.7	103,655	16.7	40,790	15.1
Aragón	64,975	2.8	25,931	4.2	6,795	2.5
Asturias, Principado de	50,363	2.2	15,157	2.5	5,375	2.0
Balears, Illes	51,788	2.3	26,431	4.3	4,524	1.7
Canarias	102,162	4.5	29,273	4.7	9,755	3.6
Cantabria	35,176	1.5	12,691	2.1	1,590	0.6
Castilla y León	126,081	5.5	41,284	6.7	19,711	7.3
Castilla-La Mancha	93,902	4.1	34,868	5.7	14,657	5.4
Cataluña	346,443	15.1	84,462	13.7	23,322	8.6
Comunitat Valenciana	289,555	12.6	57,296	9.3	42,817	15.8
Extremadura	46,317	2.0	6,489	1.1	8,934	3.3
Galicia	128,276	5.6	40,084	6.5	9,532	3.5
Madrid, Comunidad de	317,737	13.9	63,615	10.3	54,864	20.3
Murcia, Región de	82,356	3.6	16,840	2.7	5,811	2.1
Navarra, Comunidad Foral de	28,750	1.3	16,390	2.7	10,492	3.9
País Vasco	77,586	3.4	32,666	5.3	7,030	2.6
Rioja, La	14,276	0.6	7,944	1.3	2,812	1.0
Ceuta y Melilla	7,523	0.3	1,289	0.2	1,839	0.7
<b>National total</b>	<b>2,290,800</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>616,365</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>270,650</b>	<b>100</b>

## Average household water consumption by Autonomous Community

Average household water consumption was highest in Cantabria (165 litres per inhabitant per day), Comunitat Valenciana (157) and Región de Murcia (150).

On the other hand, the lowest averages were registered in País Vasco (97 litres per inhabitant per day), Illes Balears (117), and Comunidad Foral de Navarra and Extremadura (120 in both).

## Average household water consumption by Autonomous Community

Unit: litres/inhabitant/day

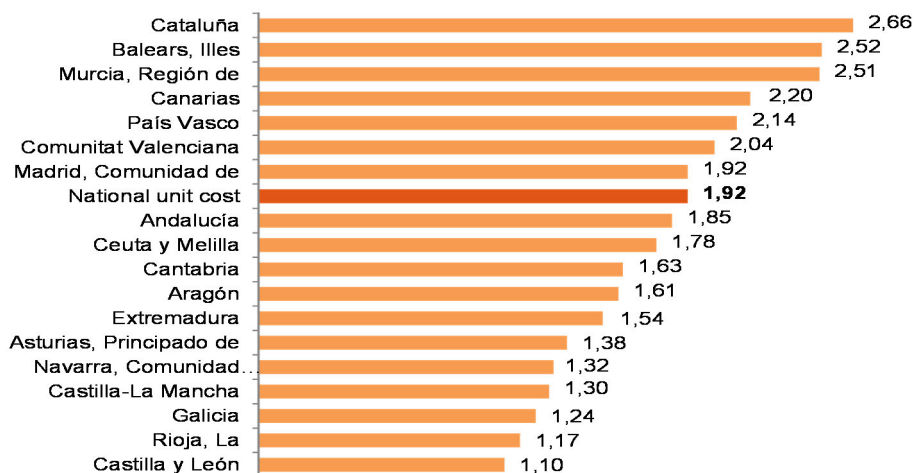
	Year 2020	% biennial rate
Andalucía	138	7.8
Aragón	134	3.9
Asturias, Principado de	136	-2.9
Balears, Illes	117	-3.3
Canarias	125	-7.4
Cantabria	165	-4.1
Castilla y León	144	-2.7
Castilla-La Mancha	126	-6.7
Cataluña	124	0.8
Comunitat Valenciana	157	-10.3
Extremadura	120	-4.8
Galicia	130	4.0
Madrid, Comunidad de	129	3.2
Murcia, Región de	150	0.7
Navarra, Comunidad Foral de	120	5.3
País Vasco	97	-6.7
Rioja, La	124	6.9
Ceuta y Melilla	122	2.5
<b>España</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>0.0</b>

## Unit cost of water by Autonomous Community

The highest values of the unit cost of water in 2020 were recorded in Cataluña (2.66 euros per cubic metre), Illes Balears (2.52) and Región de Murcia (2.51). The lowest were in Castilla y León (1.10 euros), La Rioja (1.17) and Galicia (1.24).

## Unit cost of water by Autonomous Community

Unit: euros/m<sup>2</sup>



## 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 satisfy the demand for this type of data from national and international bodies, companies in the sector and Public Administrations.

The information obtained is integrated with the data provided by the industrial and services surveys carried out by the INE, in order to have a more complete view of the situation of water in the economy. Synthesis indicators are also developed to facilitate interpretation of the physical estimates obtained by the survey for users

For more information the methodology can be accessed at:

[https://www.ine.es/dynqs/INEbase/es/operacion.htm?c=Estadistica\\_C&cid=1254736176834&menu=metodologia&idp=1254735976602](https://www.ine.es/dynqs/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>

---

For more information see **INEbase – www.ine.es** Twitter: **@es\_ine**

All press releases at: **www.ine.es/prensa/prensa.htm**

Press office: **Phone Numbers: 91 583 93 63 /94 08** — [gprensa@ine.es](mailto:gprensa@ine.es)

Information Area: **Phone Number: 91 583 91 00** – [www.ine.es/infoine](http://www.ine.es/infoine)

---