Instituto Nacional de Estadística

Press Release

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Survey on Water Supply and Treatment. Year 2006

The volume of water consumed decreases 2.2% in 2006 as compared with the year 2005, and stands at 160 litres per inhabitant per day

The unit value of water increases 5.9% in the year 2006

During the year 2006 in Spain, 4,698 cubic hectometres (Hm^3) of water were supplied to the public urban supply networks, according to the *Survey on Water Supply and Treatment*. Of this amount (which does not include the water used in irrigation agriculture), 83.3% was distributed for household consumption, for the different economic sectors (industry, services and livestock), and for municipal consumption; said percentage indicates a decrease of 2.2% in comparison with the year 2005.

In the case of households, the consumption of drinking water reached 2,616 Hm^3, which represented 66.8% of total consumption.

Apparent losses of water in the public urban supply networks (leaks, breaks, breakdowns, measurement errors, misappropriation, ...) were estimated at 785 Hm^3. This figure, which accounted for 16.7% of the total water supplied to said networks, was 6.7% lower than that recorded in 2005.

Water distributed

Unit: cubic hectometres

Households	2,616	66.8
Economic sectors*	911	23.3
Municipal consumption	328	8.4
Other consumption	58	1.5
TOTAL consumption	3,913	100.0

* This excludes the water used in irrigation agriculture, which, according to the Survey on the Use of Water in the Agrarian Sector 2006, recently published by the INE, reached 15,864 Hm^3.

Origin of water collected

The origin of the water collected by the supply companies themselves, excluding purchases from third parties, was distributed into 65.6% from surface water, 31.0% from groundwater and 3.4% from other types of water (desalinated sea or brackish water).

Average household water consumption

The average household water consumption stood at 160 litres per inhabitant per day for the year 2006. This average consumption was 3.6% lower than the 166 litres per inhabitant per day registered in 2005.

By Autonomous Community, Cantabria recorded the highest average consumption (201 litres), while Comunidad Foral de Navarra registered the lowest (128 litres).

Water consumption by Autonomous Community

Unit: litres/inhabitant/day

	2006
Andalucía	176
Aragón	150
Asturias (Principado de)	184
Balears (Illes)	150
Canarias	141
Cantabria	201
Castilla y León	147
Castilla-La Mancha	166
Cataluña	150
Comunitat Valenciana	185
Extremadura	183
Galicia	159
Madrid (Comunidad de)	148
Murcia (Región de)	166
Navarra (Comunidad Foral de)	128
País Vasco	129
Rioja (La)	148
Ceuta and Melilla	140
Spain	**160**

The unit value of water increases 5.9%

The unit value of water (quotient between the value of the water supply rates plus the sanitation rates/levies for waste water and the volume of water distributed for consumption) increased 5.9% in the year 2006, reaching 1.08 euros/m^3.

The unit value of the water supply reached 0.71 euros/m^3, while that of sanitation (sewage and waste water treatment) was 0.37 euros/m^3.

By Autonomous Community, the highest values corresponded to Canarias (1.74 euros/m^3), Illes Balears (1.61) and Región de Murcia (1.53); in contrast, Galicia and Cantabria (both with 0.71) and Principado de Asturias (0.78) presented the lowest unit values.

Unit value of water by Autonomous Community

Unit: euros/m^3

	2006
Andalucía	0.96
Aragón	1.04
Asturias (Principado de)	0.78
Balears (Illes)	1.61
Canarias	1.74
Cantabria	0.71
Castilla y León	0.83
Castilla-La Mancha	0.87
Cataluña	1.11
Comunitat Valenciana	1.30
Extremadura	0.84
Galicia	0.71
Madrid (Comunidad de)	1.27
Murcia (Región de)	1.53
Navarra (Comunidad Foral de)	1.25
País Vasco	0.87
Rioja (La)	0.93
Ceuta and Melilla	1.01
Spain	**1.08**

Reused water

The volume of treated waste water that has been reused (regenerated water) for agricultural irrigation water, recreational and municipal use, ecological use (aquifer recharge) and industrial use was 497 Hm^3, 9.5% more than in 2005.

Methodological note

The INE conducts this survey annually, for the purpose of quantifying, in physical units, the activities related to the collection of water from the environment, and to water purification, supply and sanitation (sewage and waste water treatment). Likewise, information is collected on the unit costs of the water supply and sanitation services. The survey excludes the use of water in irrigation agriculture, which is studied in the *Survey on the Use of Water in the Agrarian Sector* (INE).

The total number of water management organisations or companies was 337 for reference year 2006. The frame of reference for the survey was constituted from the Central Companies Directory (CCD) compiled by the INE and the general database of Local Organisations managed by the erstwhile General Directorate for Financial Coordination with Local Tax Offices, currently the General Secretariat for Territorial Financing, which belongs to the Ministry of the Treasury. Said frame is extended with those councils that carry out the direct management of water-related services.

The theoretical sample of units is obtained by selecting a quota within the strata formed in each Autonomous Community, according to the size of the population serviced. Once the water management unit is selected, and in order to avoid duplication, all of the municipalities serviced by the said unit are related. This includes, with an exhaustiveness criterion, those management units that service municipalities with more than 30,000 inhabitants, as well as a representation of the remaining municipality sizes. This yields coverage effectiveness indices, by Autonomous Community, of nearly 90% of the resident population.

For the variables related to the water supply in those municipalities serviced by management units that are not a part of the exhaustive stratum, the sampling data is corrected with a ratio estimator, using the resident population as an auxiliary variable.

As regards the sanitation variables (collection and treatment of waste water), the auxiliary variable for the ratio estimators is the data corresponding to the *equivalent population* in agreement or not in agreement, provided by the Ministry of the Environment. The equivalent population is calculated from the concept of equivalent inhabitant (e-i), which is defined in turn as the biodegradable organic load with a biochemical oxygen demand of 5 days (BOD_5) of 60 grams of oxygen per day.

The population in agreement is that which generates the dumping of waste water from urban agglomerations and from the food and agriculture industry, which are treated according to the minimum quality parameters required by the Sanitation and Waste Water Treatment Plan (1995-2005) approved by Resolution on 28 April 1995 by the Secretary of State for the Environment and Housing.

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