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Survey on Water Supply and Treatment Year 2010

Average household water consumption decreased 3.3% during the year 2010, standing at 144 litres per inhabitant per day

The economic sectors⁽¹⁾ consumed 3.7% less

4,581 cubic hectometres (Hm³) of water were supplied to public urban supply networks during the year 2010 in Spain. Almost three quarters of this amount (3,393 Hm³) was registered as water distributed for household consumption, for the different sectors of the economy (industry, services and livestock), as well as for municipal consumption, with a decrease of 3.1% as compared with the year 2009

In the case of households, the consumption of drinking water reached 2,413 Hm³, which represented a 3.2% decrease as compared with the previous year.

Actual losses of water in the public urban supply networks due to leaks, breaks and breakdowns were estimated at 803 Hm³, accounting for 17.5% of the total water supplied to the said networks.

The volume of water not registered due to estimated consumption, measurement errors, fraud or other causes was 385 Hm³, that is, 8.4% of the total water supplied to the said networks.

Volumes of water registered and distributed to users Year 2010

Unit: cubic hectometres

Households	2,413	71.1%
Economic sectors ⁽¹⁾	675	19.9%
Municipal and other consumption	305	9.0%
TOTAL consumption	3,393	100.0%

(1) The survey excludes the use of water in irrigation agriculture, which according to the *2010 Survey on the Use of Water in the Agrarian Sector*, reached 16.118 Hm³.

Origin of water collected

Considering the origin of the water collected by the supply companies themselves, excluding purchases from third parties, 67.5% was from surface water, 29.2% from groundwater and 3.3% from other types of water (desalinated sea or brackish water).

Average household water consumption

Average household water consumption stood at 144 litres per inhabitant per day for the year 2010. This figure was 3.3% lower than the 149 litres registered the previous year.

By Autonomous Community, the highest average consumption was in Cantabria (173 litres per inhabitant per day), Castilla y León (167) and Extremadura (160).

In contrast, the lowest average consumption was registered in homes in Illes Balears (121 litres per inhabitant per day), La Rioja and País Vasco (both with 122).

Water consumption by Autonomous Community Year 2010

Unit: litres/inhabitant/day

Andalucía	143
Aragón	144
Asturias. Principado de	159
Balears. Illes	121
Canarias	149
Cantabria	173
Castilla y León	167
Castilla-La Mancha	152
Cataluña	133
Comunitat Valenciana	157
Extremadura	160
Galicia	132
Madrid .Comunidad de	140
Murcia. Región de	158
Navarra. Comunidad Foral de	128
País Vasco	122
Rioja. La	122
TOTAL ⁽¹⁾	144

(1) Includes data from the autonomous cities of Ceuta and Melilla

Unit cost of water

The unit cost of water is the quotient between the amounts paid for the water supply, plus that of quotas for sewerage and waste water filtering, as well as for the sanitation or dumping tax, and the volume of water registered and distributed to users.

In 2010, the unit cost of water stood at 1.51 euros per cubic metre, for an increase of 6.3% as compared with the previous year.

The unit cost of the water supply reached 0.92 euros/m³, while that of sanitation (sewage, waste water treatment and tax) was 0.59 euros/m³.

By Autonomous Community, the highest values corresponded to Illes Balears (2.69 euros/m³), Región de Murcia (2.17) and Canarias (1.90).

In contrast, La Rioja (0.91 euros per m³), Castilla y León (0.98) and Galicia (1.01) recorded the lowest unit values of water.

Unit value of water by Autonomous Community

Year 2010

Unit: euros/m³

Andalucía	1.36
Aragón	1.34
Asturias. Principado de	1.07
Balears. Illes	2.69
Canarias	1.90
Cantabria	1.14
Castilla y León	0.98
Castilla-La Mancha	1.31
Cataluña	1.83
Comunitat Valenciana	1.69
Extremadura	1.23
Galicia	1.01
Madrid. Comunidad de	1.64
Murcia. Región de	2.17
Navarra. Comunidad Foral de	1.36
País Vasco	1.14
Rioja. La	0.91
TOTAL ⁽¹⁾	1.51

(1) Includes data from the autonomous cities of Ceuta and Melilla

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 entities or companies researched was 434 for reference year 2010. The frame of reference for the survey was constituted from the Central Companies Directory (CCD) compiled by the INE, and from the Directory of Local Entities compiled by the General Directorate for Financial Coordination with Local Tax Offices belonging to the Ministry of the Treasury. Said framework is extended with those municipal 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, in order to avoid duplication, all of the municipalities serviced by the said unit are related. This includes, with a comprehensive criterion, those management units that service municipalities larger than 20.000 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 comprehensive stratum, the sampling data is corrected with a ratio estimator, using the resident population as an auxiliary variable.

As of and including 2007 inclusively, the survey questionnaire explicitly requests the value of the sewage/sanitation tax, which by delegation is billed by the municipal councils and water cycle management bodies. This leads to a better estimate of the income from waste water purification, which must be taken into account when comparing water unit cost indicators with previous years.