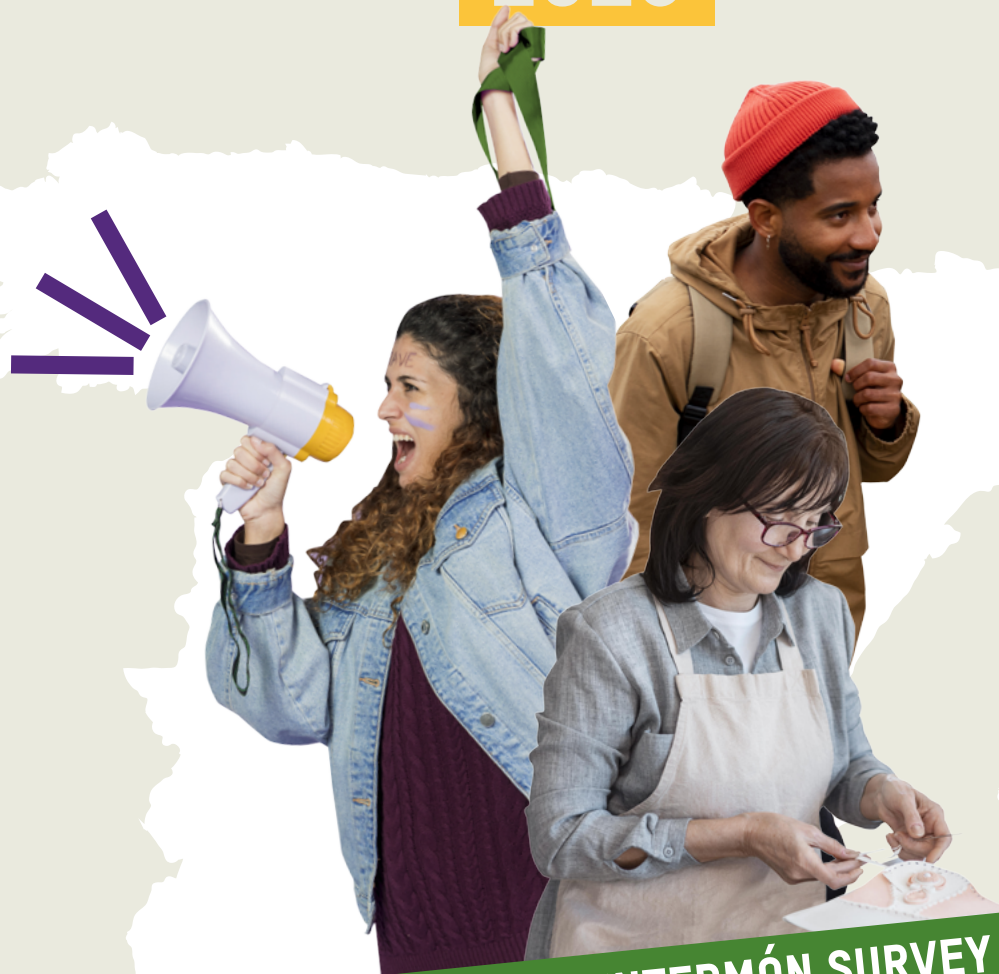


LIVING INEQUALITY

2025



OXFAM INTERMÓN SURVEY ON
MULTIPLE INEQUALITIES IN SPAIN



OXFAM
Intermón

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INTRODUCTION



Living Inequality is an Oxfam Intermón initiative designed to capture how people in Spain perceive the evolution of inequality.

It is an exercise in active listening that brings to light how inequality is lived, felt and navigated in everyday life. Beyond official statistics, it gives voice to the stories, emotions and experiences that shape people's realities, illuminating a space that numbers alone cannot reach: subjective views and the narratives that underpin society's shared understanding of inequality.

Even when economic indicators suggest improvement, that progress is not felt by everyone. Daily experience often exposes tensions that remain invisible in macro-level data. This gap between figures and lived realities shows that understanding how inequalities are felt and perceived is just as important as counting them.

Living Inequality does not aim to deliver a full diagnosis of the structural causes of inequality, nor measure every objective indicator. Instead, its strength lies in amplifying the public's perspective, helping to bridge the distance between headline statistics and everyday life, and bringing an often-missing voice into public and political debate.

The initiative is part of a wider research process, and this report presents only its quantitative findings. A representative survey of 4,102 people was conducted, alongside interviews and focus groups, to deepen the analysis of the narratives identified. Two guiding principles shape the project: an intersectional lens that recognises the interaction between different axes of inequality (such as age, gender, social class, or ethnicity, racial identity), and a multidimensional approach that includes non-economic dimensions such as health, work, education, security and democratic participation. Inequality is never singular; it is a complex reality with many faces.

This second edition brings three important new elements compared with the 2023 study. First, it introduces a temporal, longitudinal perspective: through its biennial rhythm, it tracks how perceptions of inequality in Spain change over time, distinguishing what becomes structural from what is more temporary and context-dependent. Time is a crucial dimension in social research.

Second, while retaining the core thematic structure, the analysis has been updated and expanded, offering a comprehensive journey through perceptions of global inequality, inequalities in Spain, physical and mental health, education and learning, financial security and decent work, living conditions, and physical and legal security, as well as the measures people believe are needed to confront them.

Finally, a special focus on housing has been added, reflecting the growing concern that access to decent housing is rapidly becoming one of the defining inequalities of our time. Housing is being transformed into the very heart of social inequality in Spain.

Taken together, *Living Inequality* aims to be a resource for all those striving for a fairer society, providing insights into how social divides are experienced and how collective action can help to close them. Ending inequality is a shared responsibility.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



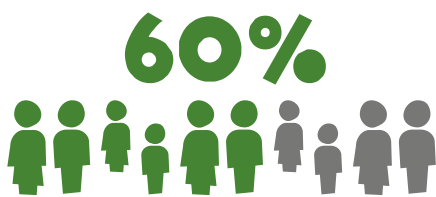
A SENSE OF INJUSTICE

SPAIN IN THE FACE OF GLOBAL INEQUALITIES

Have inequalities across the world increased over the last twenty years? Six in ten people in Spain believe they have. This view is shared across social groups and regions.

The consensus is clear. Beyond our borders, global outlooks reflect a deep sense of concern. Today, the public places armed conflicts at the very top of its global concerns (with an average score of 8.3 out of 10), followed closely by human rights violations, the persistence of poverty and difficulties in accessing decent housing (8.1).

But this map of fears and discontent does not end there. This core set of concerns is joined by issues whose relevance endures: violence against women (8), discrimination linked to origin, ethnicity, identity or sexual orientation (7.8), and, in the background, major eco-social phenomena – climate change (7.5) and migration (7.3) – that interact and widen the gaps between those who benefit from the system and groups at a disadvantage.



60% of the population believes that **GLOBAL INEQUALITIES HAVE INCREASED** over the last 20 years.



GLOBAL CONCERN IS HIGH: All issues score above 7 on a scale from 1 to 10.



WARS ARE THE LEADING INTERNATIONAL CONCERN (8.3). They are followed by human rights violations, poverty and access to housing (8.1).

PERCEPTIONS OF GLOBAL INEQUALITIES

WOMEN

Perceive **greater inequalities across all areas**. The widest gap is found in violence against women (a difference of 0.9 points) and in violence based on origin, race, identity and sexual orientation (0.7).

YOUNG PEOPLE

Concern about global phenomena generally increases with age. Men aged 18–24 report the lowest levels of concern across all topics (with an average gender gap of 1.1 points among 16 to 24-year-olds).

SPAIN CONFRONTING INEQUALITIES

Although perceptions of inequality within Spain have fallen since 2023, **78.8% of respondents still point to deep divides** that shape life in the country. Public views reveal three major fault lines through which inequality flows: opportunities for progress, the groups most affected, and the areas where differences are felt every day.

Confidence in social mobility has weakened. **52% of respondents believe that origin (social, ethnic and others) determines a person’s ability to get ahead in life, four percentage points more than in 2023.**

When it comes to perceived inequalities between social groups, **the gap between rich and poor remains the most visible (7.9 out of 10)**, followed by the differences experienced by those born into better-off households and those living in poverty (7.6). This is compounded by the exclusion of people living with irregular administrative status, which is also identified as an open fracture (7.3).

Alongside those who remain on the margins, the areas where inequality is felt most sharply also come into focus. **In 2025, housing became the leading source of inequality (7.4), overtaking the economy (7.2).** The economy still weighs heavily, but it no longer holds first place as it did in 2023, when an inflationary spiral dominated and has now been overtaken by rising housing prices.²



EIGHT IN TEN PEOPLE BELIEVE THAT THERE IS A HIGH LEVEL OF INEQUALITY IN SPAIN, almost three percentage points fewer than in 2023.



HALF OF THE POPULATION BELIEVES THAT OPPORTUNITIES TO GET AHEAD DEPEND DIRECTLY ON ORIGIN, four percentage points higher than in 2023.



THE GAP BETWEEN RICH AND POOR IS THE MOST STRONGLY PERCEIVED (7.9), followed by differences linked to socioeconomic background (7.6) and those arising from the **irregular status of migrants (7.3).**



HOUSING NOW STANDS OUT AS THE MAIN DRIVER OF INEQUALITY (7.4), followed by the economy (7.2).

PERCEPTIONS OF INEQUALITIES IN SPAIN

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| WOMEN | Housing is the main concern (0.4 points higher than among men). The widest gaps are found in perceptions of inequality between men and women (1 point), within the household (0.7), regarding LGBTQI+ people (0.7) and in the economy (0.6). |
| YOUNG PEOPLE | Among young people aged 18 to 34, housing is identified as the main national issue, with greater concern among young women: 7 compared to 6.1 among those aged 16 to 24, and 7.7 compared to 7.2 among those aged 25 to 34. |

INEQUALITIES CAN BE ERADICATED: PRIORITIES FOR A MORE EQUAL SOCIETY

In light of this diagnosis, there is good news: **six in ten people in Spain believe inequalities can be reversed, and four in ten are firmly convinced**, providing a basis for moving from analysis to action.

As housing is seen as the main driver of inequality, **ensuring access to decent housing emerges as the top priority for change**: 41.2% place it first, an increase of 5.4 percentage points compared to two years ago.

Raising **incomes and promoting access to quality jobs come second** (37.8%). Although this priority has fallen by 8.5 points since 2023, possibly due to easing inflation and improved employment, it rises to 41.6% among those who struggle to make ends meet, showing that recovery does not reach all households equally. **Access to public health care and to high-quality public education remain essential pillars**, ranking third (31.5%) and fourth (24.5%) among priorities.



62.4%

62.4% of people in Spain **BELIEVE THAT INEQUALITIES CAN BE ERADICATED**.



DECENT HOUSING IS THE TOP PRIORITY FOR REVERSING INEQUALITY IN SPAIN. 41.2% hold this view, which is shared across all ages and social groups.

PRIORITIES FOR FIGHTING INEQUALITY

WOMEN

Women place greater importance on health care (+4.7 points compared to men). Men place greater emphasis on physical and legal security (+4 points compared to women).

RACIALIZED PEOPLE

Greater demand for participation in political and social life (+2.9 points compared to the non-racialized population).

YOUNG PEOPLE

Among those aged 16–17, **the economy is the top priority** (30.7%), followed by education (26.2%). There is also a stronger demand for political and social participation (11.2% among those aged 16–17 and 11.6% among those aged 18–24). **Among 18 to 24-year-olds, housing has become a priority** (31.5%), and among those aged 25–34 this intensifies (40%).

LOW SOCIO-ECONOMIC GROUPS

Decent housing is the leading priority for reducing inequality across all socioeconomic groups. In lower socioeconomic groups, the economy stands out (39.2%) alongside a greater tendency not to prioritise any of the policies consulted (8.4%, more than four points higher than the rest).

WITHIN HOUSEHOLDS, THE CHALLENGES CONTINUE

PERCEPTIONS OF ECONOMIC AND EMPLOYMENT WELL-BEING CONTINUE TO STAGNATE

Economic growth is evident in macroeconomic indicators, but households experience a different reality. **Almost three in ten people say their income is not enough to live a dignified life**. This feeling is particularly strong among those facing gender or racial inequalities. The gap is also especially visible in lower-income households, where ‘not enough’ becomes a daily experience.

Perceptions of working life also reveal mixed outcomes. Although employment figures are at historic highs, satisfaction is not rising at the same pace: **four in ten people say their working life is not good**. The data suggest that contract type, job security and income still make a difference: those in full-time, permanent roles report higher satisfaction, while **part-time and temporary work account for much of the discontent**. In this context, it is striking that 37.5% of respondents say

they need a second job to live a dignified life. Gaps are also visible by gender and age. For women, paid work is shaped by care responsibilities and difficulties with work-life balance, while among young people, a sense of overqualification and disillusionment prevails in a labour market that fails to absorb the effort invested in education.



30% of people believe **THEIR INCOME DOES NOT ALLOW THEM TO LIVE WITH DIGNITY.**



FOUR IN TEN PEOPLE SAY THEIR WORKING LIFE IS NOT GOOD. This is particularly true for those in part-time, temporary or discontinuous permanent contracts.



37.5% say they **NEED A SECOND JOB** for economic reasons.

| GROUP | INCOME | WORKING LIFE |
|---------------------------|--|---|
| WOMEN | More likely to feel their income does not allow them to live with dignity (32.7% compared to 26.6% of men). | Women report lower job satisfaction than men (66.7% vs 73.2%), and feel work leaves them with less time for themselves and for family life. Women also report a greater need for a second job for economic reasons, even when they cannot take one (41.3% vs 33.7%). |
| RACIALIZED PEOPLE | Racialized people are more likely to say their income does not allow them to live with dignity (37.6% vs 26.9% of the rest of the population). | They are also more likely to juggle multiple jobs (24.7% vs 18.2% of non-racialized people). |
| LOW SOCIO-ECONOMIC GROUPS | More likely to feel their income does not allow them to live with dignity (4.3 out of 10 on average, compared to 6.4 among higher-income groups). | Only 48.5% of people in lower-income groups report being very satisfied with their job, compared with 77.9% in higher-income groups. |
| YOUNG PEOPLE | More likely to feel their income does not allow them to live with dignity, with 13.4% among those aged 25–35 compared to 10.8% among those aged 55–64 and 8.2% among those aged 65 and over. | Among those aged 18–24, 51.1% say their job fulfils them, compared to 59.3% among those aged 45–54 and 62% among those aged 55–64. |

EVERYDAY SACRIFICES PERSIST

In too many households, money runs out before the end of the month. The most common response is to tighten the budget and cut back wherever possible, for example, by reducing the consumption of meat, fish, and fresh fruit and vegetables, or giving up extracurricular activities. These choices erode well-being and limit future opportunities.

Three areas account for most of these sacrifices. The first is consumption and food: **over 60% say they have had to buy discounted or cheaper products,** or shop in low-cost supermarkets. The second affects leisure and rest: **43.6% say they cannot afford even one week of holiday a year.** The third is linked to financial resilience: **40.1% have no buffer to cope with an unexpected expense of more than €600,** a third have delayed payments or renegotiated loans, and almost a quarter have sought financial help from relatives or charities. This is compounded by a 3.6 percentage point rise in those cutting back on education or requesting salary advances to make ends meet.

These figures extend a trend that was already a cause for concern in 2023. Today, **they paint a picture in which, for many households, tightening their belts is no longer a temporary measure, but a chronic situation that wears people down and leaves scars.**



OVER 60% SAY THEY HAVE HAD TO BUY DISCOUNTED OR CHEAPER PRODUCTS, or shop in low-cost supermarkets.

43.6%

43.6% say **THEY CANNOT AFFORD EVEN ONE WEEK OF HOLIDAY A YEAR.**



40.1% say **THEY DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH MONEY TO MEET UNEXPECTED EXPENSES** over €600.



ONE THIRD HAVE DELAYED PAYMENTS OR renegotiated loans, and **ALMOST A QUARTER HAVE SOUGHT FINANCIAL HELP** from relatives or charities.

CUTBACKS AND ADJUSTMENTS.

| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| WOMEN | Two in three women buy discounted products; over 60% cut back on leisure and culture; 62.4% reduce spending on clothing and footwear (49.4% of men); 47.9% cannot afford at least one week of holiday (38.9% of men); and 43.6% cannot meet unexpected expenses over €600 (36.1% of men). |
| RACIALIZED PEOPLE | 49% bought less meat, fish, fruit and vegetables (36.7% among non-racialized people); 31.6% cut education spending (20.7%); 37.3% delayed payments and loans (27.2%); 31% sought help from relatives or institutions (18.7%); and 27.4% requested salary advances (14.7%). |
| LOW SOCIO-ECONOMIC GROUPS | Greater sacrifices in leisure and clothing; 49.3% cannot meet unexpected expenses over €600 (34.2% in middle and higher groups); and 55% cannot afford at least one week of holiday a year (37.8% in middle and higher groups). |
| YOUNG PEOPLE | Young people make more sacrifices than older groups. Among those aged 25–34, 64% turn to cheaper shopping (52.8% for 65+); 65.8% reduce leisure and culture spending (51.4% for 65+); 63% cut back on clothing and footwear (56.5% for 65+); 51.7% cannot afford a week’s holiday (34.7% for 65+); and 52.8% cannot meet unexpected expenses over €600 (29.9% for 65+). |

ADVANCES AND CHALLENGES IN HEALTH

Overall perceptions of health among respondents are mostly positive: 56% rate their physical health favourably and only 12% consider it ‘poor’, figures very similar to those of 2023. When it comes to mental health, most people also remain positive: 65.4% rate it well, in line with the 2023 trend (63.6%).

However, when the data are examined more closely across gender, age, financial situation and social background, significant differences emerge. **People who struggle to make ends meet report far worse physical health: 21.3% rate it as ‘poor’, double the sample average.** Perceptions of mental health improve with age, among men, with higher socioeconomic status, and among those with greater saving capacity.

Major sacrifices in health care are also reported for economic reasons, especially in dentistry (41.4%), mental health care (24.1%), and physiotherapy, gynaecology or urology (24.8%). At the same time, almost **four in ten respondents have private health insurance and a quarter hold dental insurance**, two and a half points more than in 2023. These sacrifices, which affect women, young people and racialized people most strongly, reveal the social determinants of health that limit access to essential care and deepen the vulnerability of groups most affected by inequality.



56% RATE THEIR PHYSICAL HEALTH POSITIVELY, AND ONLY 12% CONSIDER IT 'POOR'. In mental health, 65.4% report a positive assessment.



AMONG THOSE WHO STRUGGLE TO MAKE ENDS MEET, PERCEPTIONS ARE MUCH WORSE: 21.3% rate their physical health as 'poor', double the sample average.



41.4% HAVE HAD TO FORGO DENTAL CARE FOR ECONOMIC REASONS, while almost four in ten have private health insurance and a quarter have dental insurance.

HEALTH

WOMEN

Greater health care sacrifices: 23.8% do not visit the dentist (18% of men); 16.6% do not receive physiotherapy or rehabilitation (8.6% of men); and 12.1% cannot access psychological or psychiatric treatment (7.6% of men).

RACIALIZED PEOPLE

Deeper cuts in health care, especially in dental care (over 10 percentage points more than non-racialized people) and in glasses or hearing aids (almost 13 points more).

LOW SOCIO-ECONOMIC GROUPS

Rate their physical health more poorly: 21.3% describe it as 'poor', double the sample average.

YOUNG PEOPLE

Young people aged 16–34 from middle-income backgrounds report worse mental health (3.5 out of 5), compared with those aged over 55 from higher-income backgrounds, who report higher levels (4.1 out of 5).

WHEN LIFELONG LEARNING IS NOT ALWAYS POSSIBLE

Access to education decisively shapes social mobility and determines whether the 'social lift' or 'meritocracy' is a real horizon or an unfulfilled promise.

The desire to keep learning remains strong across the population. **More than half of respondents (52.7%) say they would have liked to continue their education, up 4.5 points from 2023.** The main barrier remains the same: financial difficulties. Among those who cannot make ends meet, this rises to 57.3%.

The need to work and earn an income is still the most frequently cited obstacle and has increased slightly, from 34.6% in 2023 to 37% in 2025.

By contrast, direct education costs now weigh less as a barrier, falling significantly from 28.8% in 2023 to 16.1% in 2025.

52.7%

52.7% say **THEY WOULD HAVE LIKED TO CONTINUE THEIR EDUCATION**, 4.5 points more than in 2023.



37% say they had to **LEAVE EDUCATION** due to the need to work and earn an income.



DIRECT EDUCATION COSTS ARE CITED LESS OFTEN AS A BARRIER, falling from 28.8% in 2023 to 16.1% in 2025.

LEARNING

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| WOMEN | A stronger desire to continue studying: 55.8% compared to men. |
| RACIALIZED PEOPLE | Greater dissatisfaction: 56.7% would have liked to continue studying compared to 51.4% of non-racialized people but were unable to do so for economic reasons. |
| LOW SOCIO-ECONOMIC GROUPS | A stronger desire to continue learning: 56.8% compared to 48.7% among those with higher levels but who are constrained by income needs. |
| YOUNG PEOPLE | Young people aged 25–35 are the group most likely to say they would have liked to continue learning, a pattern that extends up to the 44-age group. |

HOUSING AS A DETERMINANT OF INEQUALITY

Housing has become a central concern: what the Constitution recognises as a right (Article 47) is now under question. The steep rise in prices has made access to decent housing a social crisis that cuts through the daily lives of almost half the population. **45% of respondents say the housing crisis directly affects their lives, despite economic growth and job creation over the last five years.**

The impact is not the same for everyone. Those who do not own their home (one in three adults) experience the crisis most acutely. Among homeowners, only 33.2% say they are affected, while among tenants, this figure soars to 73.6%. People who have not yet left the parental home (mostly young people) are also highly exposed: almost 60% say they are affected.

Those who are already at a disadvantage are the hardest hit by the crisis. Time and again, women, racialized people, lower-income households and young people show worse outcomes across the areas analysed. It is a snowball effect: lack of resources creates new limitations, while those who already have them see their position reinforced and are able to capture more income. In this way, the concentration of property deepens inequality. A quarter of homeowners own more than one property. More than one in three landlords in Spain rent out two or more properties (38.42%). **The result is a transfer of income: those who accumulate the most wealth earn rental income from those with fewer resources.**

In theory, buying a home seems like a way out for those facing housing exclusion, but the barriers are clear. High house prices, mortgage lending conditions and limited savings mean that ownership is out of reach for many: **only 14.4% of non-owners feel optimistic about buying in the future, while 58.5% see it as unlikely or very unlikely.**

Expectations also depend on social class, and the gap is widest among young people. 72.1% of young people from higher socioeconomic backgrounds consider it likely or very likely that they will receive family support to buy a home. By contrast, **60.4% of young people in lower socioeconomic situations see such support as unlikely or very unlikely.** In other words, access to housing increasingly depends on family background and financial capacity, not solely on individual effort.

Respondents identify public authorities as the main actors responsible for this situation, followed by vulture funds and banks. The message is clear: without decisive public policies and measures to curb speculative accumulation of housing, the crisis will not only persist but will continue to widen social inequalities.

45% 

THE HOUSING CRISIS AFFECTS 45% OF RESPONDENTS and is generating widespread distress, despite economic growth and job creation over the last five years.



73% OF TENANTS SAY THEY ARE AFFECTED BY THE HOUSING CRISIS, compared to 33% of homeowners.

 **25%**

A QUARTER OF HOMEOWNERS OWN MORE THAN ONE PROPERTY. More than one in three landlords in Spain rent out two or more properties (38.42%).



Only 14.4% of non-owners feel optimistic about being able to buy a home in the future, while **ALMOST 60% SEE THIS AS UNLIKELY OR VERY UNLIKELY.**

| | IMPACT OF THE HOUSING CRISIS | HOUSING TENURE | HOME PURCHASE |
|--------------------------|---|--|--|
| WOMEN | 47% feel affected (42.3% hombres). | Are more likely to rent (25.5% vs 20.3% of men). | No significant differences. |
| YOUNG PEOPLE | 62.7% feel affected compared with 22.8% of those aged over 65. | 35% rent compared with 20.7% of those aged over 35. | Expectations vary by socioeconomic level: 72.1% in the highest group expect family support, while 60.4% in the lowest group consider this unlikely. |
| RACIALIZED PEOPLE | 57.5% feel affected (40.3% of the rest of the population). | 36% rent compared with 19% of white people. | No significant differences. |
| TENANTS | Three in four tenants are affected by the crisis, compared with one in three homeowners. | 23% of the overall sample rent, 67% are homeowners, and 16.2% own two or more properties. | 11.5% of tenants consider it very likely that they will receive family support; 31.3% consider this unlikely when seeking to buy a home. |
| | | Figures refer to the full sample, not only to tenants. | |

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR INEQUALITIES?

Four in ten people place primary responsibility for the existence or persistence of inequality on public administrations and their policies, followed by political parties and large companies. Even so, **53.2% of the population believes that the government of Spain is well equipped to fight inequality**, ahead of the European Union, regional governments and local authorities.

Citizens also see a role for **actors beyond the institutional sphere**, including businesses, social movements, the media, NGOs, trade unions and faith-based communities. Levels of trust in these actors vary by gender and age, with women across all age groups expressing greater optimism about their ability to confront inequality.



FOUR IN TEN PEOPLE HOLD PUBLIC ADMINISTRATIONS AND THEIR POLICIES CHIEFLY RESPONSIBLE FOR INEQUALITY, followed by political parties and large corporations.



53.2% OF THE POPULATION VIEW THE GOVERNMENT OF SPAIN AS A STRONG ACTOR IN THE FIGHT AGAINST INEQUALITY, ahead of the European Union.

| GROUP | RESPONSIBILITY FOR INEQUALITIES | OPTIMISM REGARDING POTENTIAL FOR CHANGE |
|--------------|--|--|
| WOMEN | 15.6% of women say they do not know or do not wish to hold any actor responsible, compared with 7.7% of men. | Women consistently rate the ability of political and social actors to fight inequality more highly than men across every age group. For instance, women give the European Union a score of 7.3, compared with 6.7 among men. |
| YOUNG PEOPLE | 37.6% of those aged 18–34 blame political parties, eight points above the average, while 20.1% of those aged 18–24 identify no responsible actor at all, double the average. | Older people, particularly men aged 55–64, are the least confident, with average ratings for governments and social actors barely reaching 5. |

PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS OF THE FIGHT AGAINST INEQUALITY

Respondents point to several key areas for tackling inequality. **Almost half of the population, 45%, say that continuing to promote quality employment is essential.** Employment-related measures remain the most in-demand policies, although their priority has fallen by 9.4 points since 2023, in a context of improving labour market indicators and a rise in the minimum wage.

Public health care, at 35.4%, and public education, at 28.6%, are seen as fundamental strategies for reducing inequality. Support for strengthening health care has risen by 5.3 points compared with 2023. One in five people place **a public and universal care system at the top of their political priorities**, two points more than in 2023. When it comes to social protection, the most widely supported measure is the Minimum Basic Income.

The tax system faces widespread criticism, with **73% saying it does not distribute wealth fairly.** Almost six in ten believe that large fortunes do not contribute enough, and half share this view regarding the upper classes and large corporations. In addition, almost all groups support the introduction of windfall taxes on banks and major energy companies.

Finally, housing emerges as a central pillar, with **41.8% of the population placing it as a priority in the fight against inequality. This represents an increase of 6.3 points since 2023 and the largest rise across all the areas analysed.** Key measures include expanding the stock of public housing, refurbishing vacant homes for rental, and regulating the use of tourist or short-term accommodation.

OXFAM INTERMÓN'S PROPOSALS

Inequality is a violation of human dignity that stems, among other factors, from political decisions. That is why we must put forward an ambitious package of proposals to address the challenges identified by the public. From decent, affordable housing policies to better jobs and fairer wages, and from strengthening education, health care and public services to reinforcing social protection mechanisms, and from building a comprehensive care system to guaranteeing rights-based migration policies, to redefining the role of business and reforming the tax system to make it more progressive, we need a truly comprehensive response that leaves no one behind. The goals and the roadmap are clear, but they will only become a reality if all social actors commit to walking the path together, door to door.



A SENSE OF INJUSTICE



SPAIN IN THE FACE OF GLOBAL INEQUALITIES

Six in ten 10 people believe that global inequality has increased over the past 20 years.

Concern is widespread, with every issue scoring above 7 on a scale from 1 to 10.

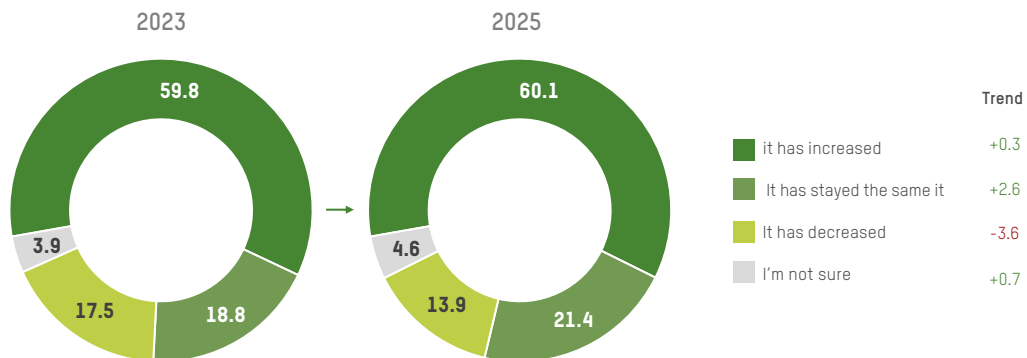
Wars are the leading international concern, with a score of 8.3. They are followed by human rights violations, poverty and access to housing, each scoring 8.1.

Our understanding of justice and fairness is shaped by both local experiences and global perceptions. In Spain, people also look beyond their borders, showing concern for the gaps shaping the present and future of the world.

Six in ten people in Spain believe that global inequalities have increased over the last two decades, a view in line with the previous edition of Living Inequality (2023), pointing to a shared and deep-rooted perception. By contrast, fewer people believe that the global gap has narrowed, a fall of 3.6 points since 2023.

FIGURE 1. TRENDS IN PERCEPTIONS OF GLOBAL INEQUALITY OVER THE PAST 20 YEARS (IN %)

Q2: Over the past 20 years, would you say that inequality in the world has increased or decreased? (% of total)



Source: 40dB.

MAIN GLOBAL CONCERNS

Concern about the issues surveyed is widespread and high. **Armed conflicts are now the greatest international concern**, scoring 8.3 on a scale from 1 to 10, followed by human rights violations. This shared feeling reflects a context of rising geopolitical tensions, an escalation of armed conflict and growing violence, with devastating impacts on the lives of millions and on the protection of human rights.¹

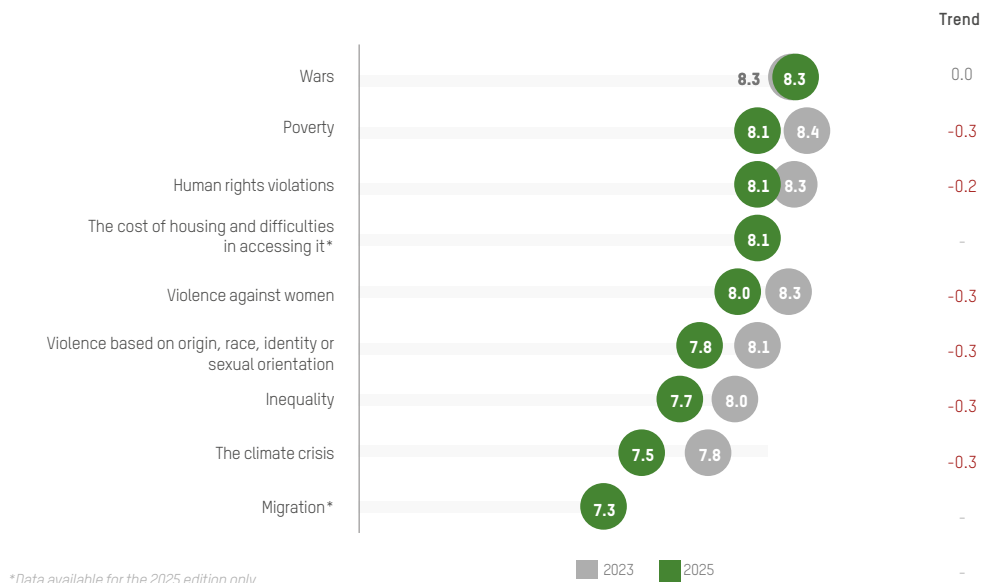
Poverty, which ranked first in 2023, and the cost of housing now sit alongside human rights at the same level, with a score of 8.1 out of 10. This view is reinforced by our macroeconomic analysis, which shows that since 2015, the richest 1% have accumulated 33.9 trillion dollars, enough to eradicate extreme poverty twenty-two times over.² This imbalance directly affects the funding and quality of public services, from the difficulty of guaranteeing affordable housing policies to the strain on essential systems such as health care, which rely on sustained public investment to meet social needs.

Beyond these headline issues, **people also express high levels of concern, above 7 out of 10, about other dimensions**, including violence against women, discrimination based on origin, race, identity or sexual orientation, and other forms of inequality, as well as major eco-social challenges such as climate change and migration.

The pattern of responses reveals **a Spanish public that views global inequality as a multidimensional phenomenon**, combining concerns about international security with those directly linked to the protection of rights. This broad perspective reflects a social awareness that goes beyond geopolitical balances to include everyday and structural forms of exclusion. Rather than a list of isolated priorities, what emerges is a web of interdependent concerns that mirrors the complexity of today's challenges.

FIGURE 2. CONCERN ABOUT GLOBAL PHENOMENA (OVERALL AVERAGE)

Q1: To what extent are you concerned about the following global phenomena? We are referring to the issues currently affecting the world. Rate on a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 means 'I am not concerned at all' and 10 means 'I am very concerned'.
(Overall average)



Source: 40dB.

SPAIN CONFRONTING INEQUALITIES

Nearly eight in ten people believe that there are significant inequalities in Spain, almost three percentage points fewer than in 2023.

Half of the population says that opportunities to get ahead depend directly on where you come from, four percentage points more than in 2023.

The gap between rich and poor is the most widely perceived, scoring 7.9, followed by differences linked to socioeconomic background at 7.6, and those arising from the irregular status of migrants at 7.3.

Housing now stands out as the main driver of inequality (7.4), followed by the economy (7.2).

In Spain, how people experience social and economic challenges is closely tied to everyday life. The issues that surface when inequality is discussed reflect concern about how opportunities and resources are distributed, and how these differences shape today's society and future generations.

Nearly eight in ten people in Spain, 78.8%, believe that there are major inequalities in the country. Although this remains a very high figure, it represents a slight improvement on 2023, when it stood at 81.4%.



This public diagnosis highlights one of Spain's key paradoxes: despite being the fourth-largest economy in the Eurozone, it ranks fifth among the most unequal countries in the European Union, behind only Bulgaria, Lithuania, Latvia and Portugal.³

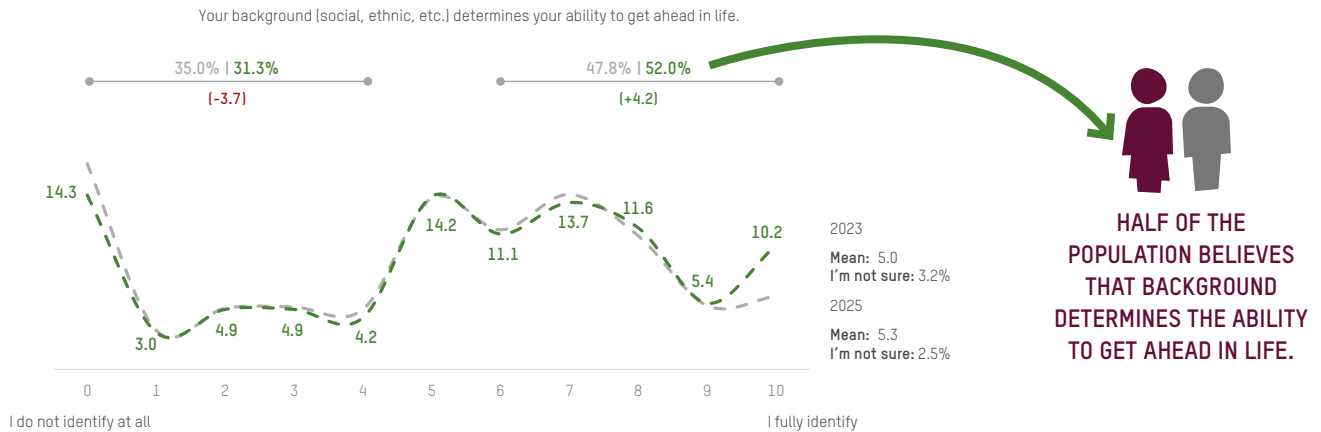
DIMENSIONS OF INEQUALITY IN SPAIN

When we look at how people in Spain perceive inequality, three core dimensions come into focus. First, **opportunities for progress** show the extent to which it is possible to improve one's personal circumstances. Second, the **groups most affected** reveal who bears the brunt of these gaps. Third, the **areas where these differences are felt most strongly** show where inequality has the greatest impact.

When it comes to this first dimension, trust in social mobility appears to be declining. More than half of the population, **52%**, believe that opportunities to get ahead depend directly on social or ethnic origin, four percentage points more than in 2023.

FIGURE 3. BELIEFS ABOUT THE IMPACT OF BACKGROUND ON SOCIAL MOBILITY (OVERALL %)

Q7: To what extent do you identify with the following statement?
 Rate on a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 means 'I do not identify at all' and 10 means 'I fully identify'.
 [% of total]



Source: 40dB.

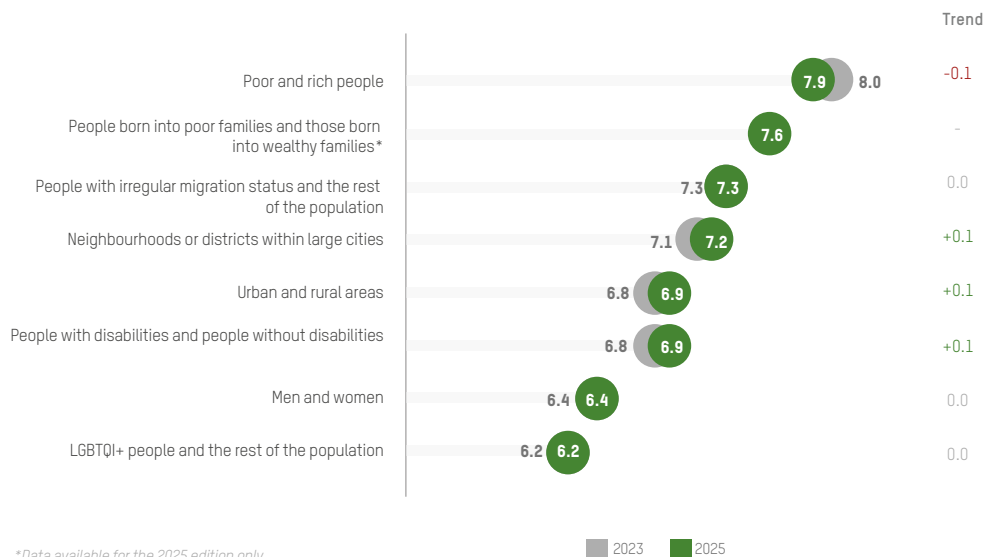
The second dimension focuses on the inequalities people perceive between social groups. Although people’s understanding of inequality is becoming broader and more interconnected, including factors such as ethnic or birth origin, gender, disability and sexual orientation, **economic inequality remains the most visible. The gap between rich and poor is seen as the main social divide, scoring 7.9 out of 10, and is closely linked to household background, at 7.6.**

The **exclusion faced by people with irregular migration status** comes next, combining economic hardship with the systemic denial of fundamental rights, and **is seen as one of the most significant forms of inequality, at 7.3.**

Territorial divides, such as between neighbourhoods or districts in large cities, at 7.2, and between urban and rural areas, at 6.9, along with the exclusion of people with disabilities, also at 6.9, are also widely recognised. Gender-based gaps, at 6.4, and inequality affecting LGBTQI+ people, at 6.2, are perceived less intensely, but remain significant, especially among those who experience this exclusion directly. Women perceive inequality more strongly than men, with a one-point gap in their assessments. In perceptions of inequality between LGBTQI+ and cisgender heterosexual people, the difference is 0.4 points in favour of LGBTQI+ people.

FIGURE 4. PERCEIVED INEQUALITIES BETWEEN SOCIAL GROUPS (OVERALL AVERAGE)

Q5: To what extent do you think there is social inequality in Spain between the following groups? Rate on a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 means 'Not unequal at all' and 10 means 'Extremely unequal'.
 (Overall average)



Source: 40dB.

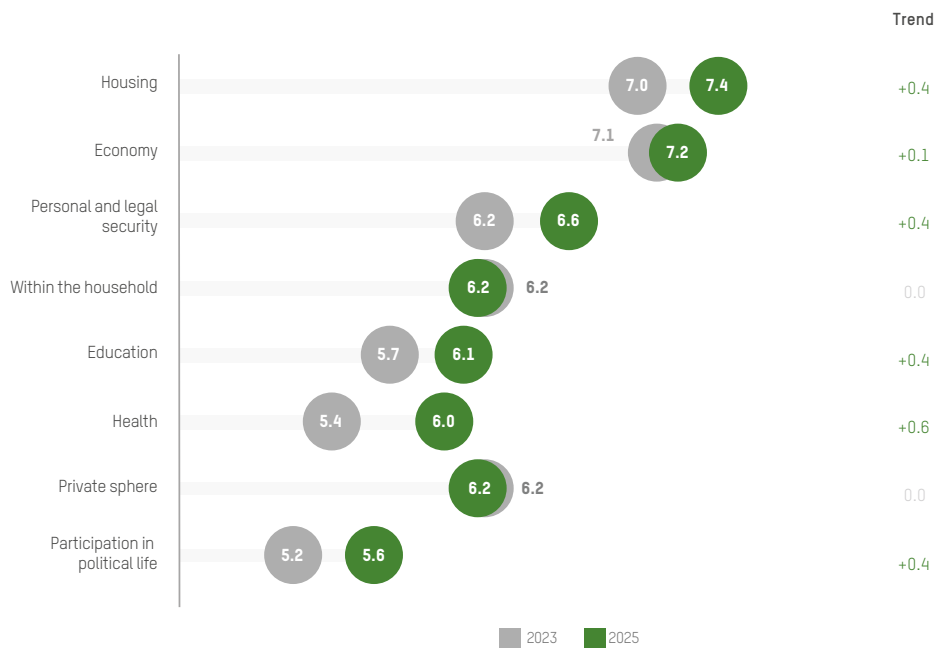
Finally, it is essential to highlight how these social divides have a direct and tangible impact on the everyday lives of those who experience them, showing how inequality shapes people’s living conditions in concrete ways.

In 2025, housing is perceived as the main source of inequality in Spain, closely followed by the economy, which ranked first in 2023.

The shift in ranking between housing and the economy reflects changing public concerns shaped by context and everyday pressures. While rising prices linked to inflation were the central concern in 2023,⁴ in 2025, the housing crisis is becoming increasingly prominent, as will be analysed in greater detail in later sections.

FIGURE 5. AREAS IN WHICH INEQUALITY IS MOST STRONGLY PERCEIVED IN SPAIN (I)

Q6: Do you think that in Spain, inequality exists in the following areas?
Rate on a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 means 'No inequality at all' and 10 means 'A great deal of inequality'.
(Overall average)



Source: 40dB.

Despite GDP growth,⁵ perceptions of economic inequality remain high, revealing a disconnect between macroeconomic indicators and people’s lived experience. While the economy is growing in aggregate terms, many people do not feel that their incomes or quality of life are improving, as will be explored in later chapters.

Concern about barriers to accessing housing is not only rising; the overall trend points to a growing perception of inequality, albeit modestly. The largest increase is seen in health, up by 0.6 points, a moderate figure that nonetheless signals a growing public sense that health care, one of the pillars of our democracy and welfare system, is now more unequal.

DIFFERENT EXPERIENCES, DIFFERENT PERCEPTIONS

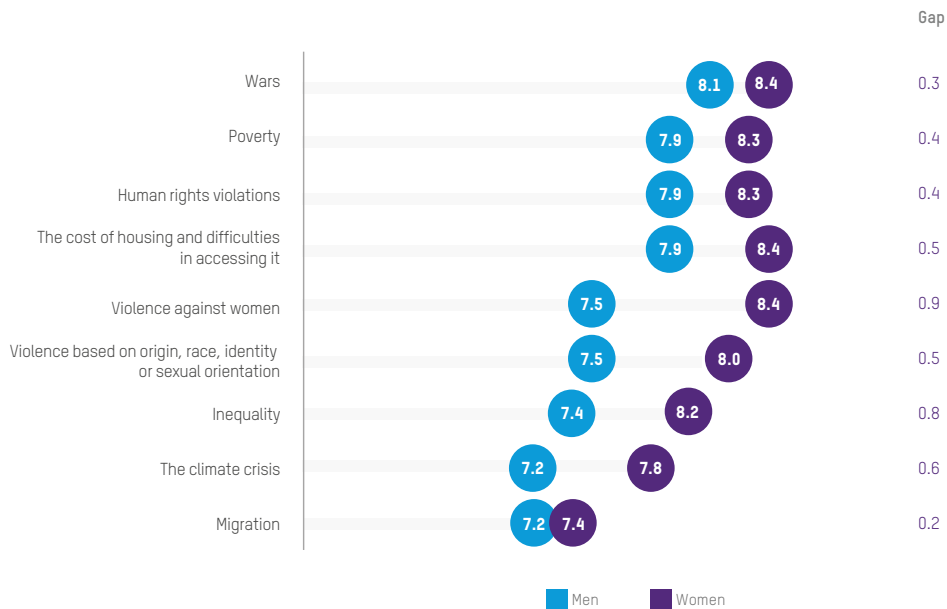
Although many of these concerns are widely shared, the way inequalities are perceived and prioritised, both globally and nationally, varies across social factors, particularly gender and age.

Women, regardless of generation, socioeconomic status or ethnic background, perceive higher levels of inequality than men across all areas, especially in relation to structural gender gaps and heteropatriarchal violence. The largest differences appear in perceptions of inequality between men and women and between LGBTQI+ people and the rest of the population, at 0.9 and 0.7 points globally, and 1 and 0.7 points nationally.

In Spain, the areas showing the widest gender gaps are the household and the economy, with differences of 0.7 and 0.6 points, respectively. The following chart compares perceptions among women and men.

FIGURE 6. CONCERN ABOUT GLOBAL PHENOMENA, BY GENDER

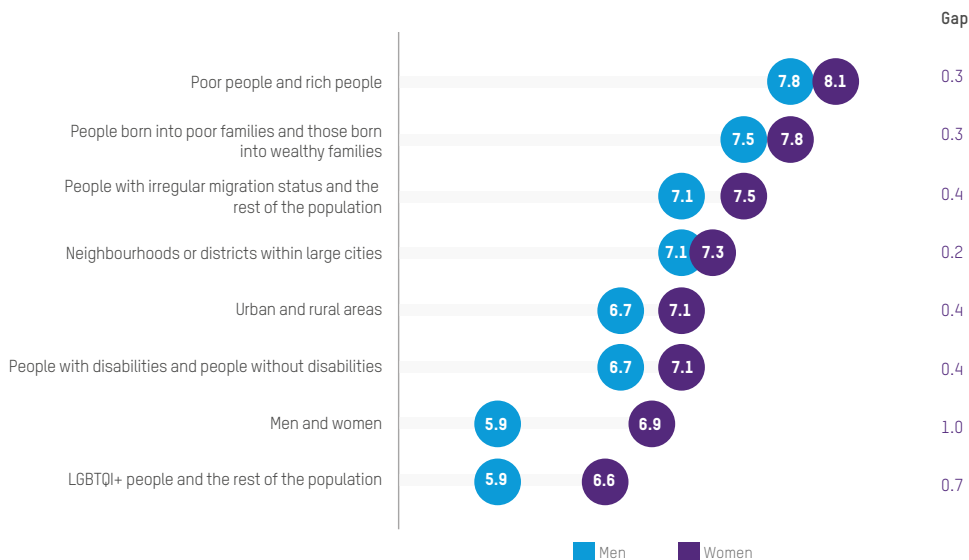
Q1: To what extent are you concerned about the following global phenomena? We are referring to the issues currently affecting the world. Rate on a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 means 'I am not concerned at all' and 10 means 'I am very concerned'. (Average by gender)



Source: 40dB.

FIGURE 7. INEQUALITY BETWEEN POPULATION GROUPS IN SPAIN, BY GENDER

Q5: To what extent do you think there is social inequality in Spain among the following groups? Rate on a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 means 'Not unequal at all' and 10 means 'Extremely unequal'. (Average by gender)

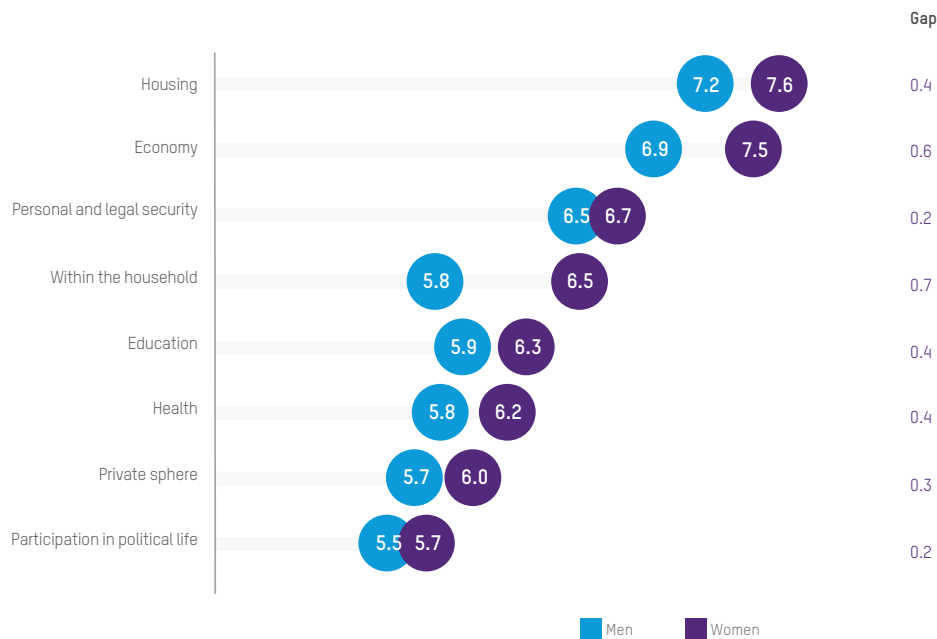


Source: 40dB.

FIGURE 8. AREAS OF INEQUALITY IN SPAIN (II), BY GENDER

Q6: Do you think that in Spain, inequality exists in the following areas?

Rate on a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 means 'No inequality at all' and 10 means 'A great deal of inequality'. (Average by gender)



Source: 40dB.

Perceptions of major global challenges and inequalities in Spain tend to increase with age, although not always linearly.

Young men aged 18 to 24 are the least likely to point to structural inequalities, while women aged 35 to 64 show the highest levels of concern, especially those between 55 and 64, across many of the areas surveyed. From the age of 65 onwards, the gap between men and women tends to narrow.

FIGURE 9. CONCERN ABOUT GLOBAL PHENOMENA, BY AGE AND GENDER

Q1: To what extent are you concerned about the following global phenomena? We are referring to the issues currently affecting the world. Rate on a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 means 'I am not concerned at all' and 10 means 'I am very concerned'.

(Average by age and gender)

| | Men 16-24 years | Women 16-24 years | Men 25-34 years | Women 25-34 years | Men 35-44 years | Women 35-44 years | Men 45-54 years | Women 45-54 years | Men 55-64 years | Women 55-64 years | Men 65+ years | Women 65+ years |
|--|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Wars | 6.9 | 7.8 | 7.7 | 8.2 | 7.5 | 8.3 | 8.1 | 8.5 | 8.2 | 8.9 | 8.9 | 8.8 |
| Poverty | 7.2 | 7.9 | 7.6 | 8.2 | 7.6 | 8.4 | 7.9 | 8.4 | 8.2 | 8.6 | 8.4 | 8.3 |
| Human rights violations | 6.8 | 7.8 | 7.9 | 8.1 | 7.6 | 8.1 | 7.6 | 8.4 | 8.2 | 8.6 | 8.5 | 8.6 |
| The cost of housing and difficulties in accessing it | 7.1 | 8.0 | 7.8 | 8.5 | 7.7 | 8.5 | 7.8 | 8.4 | 8.1 | 8.6 | 8.1 | 8.2 |
| Violence against women | 6.2 | 7.9 | 7.3 | 8.3 | 7.3 | 8.4 | 7.3 | 8.5 | 7.7 | 9.0 | 8.3 | 8.4 |
| Violence based on origin, race, identity or sexual orientation | 6.5 | 7.9 | 7.2 | 8.1 | 7.0 | 8.1 | 7.5 | 8.2 | 7.6 | 8.5 | 8.0 | 8.3 |
| Inequality | 6.3 | 7.7 | 7.3 | 8.0 | 7.1 | 7.9 | 7.3 | 8.1 | 7.7 | 8.4 | 7.9 | 8.1 |
| The climate crisis | 6.2 | 7.3 | 7.2 | 7.6 | 6.8 | 7.9 | 7.0 | 7.9 | 7.1 | 8.1 | 7.8 | 8.1 |
| Migration | 5.5 | 6.3 | 7.3 | 7.3 | 6.8 | 7.3 | 7.1 | 7.8 | 7.5 | 7.9 | 7.6 | 7.8 |

Source: 40dB.



PERCEPTIONS OF MAJOR GLOBAL CHALLENGES and inequalities in Spain INCREASE WITH AGE.

FIGURE 10. INEQUALITY BETWEEN POPULATION GROUPS IN SPAIN, BY AGE AND GENDER

Q5: To what extent do you think there is social inequality in Spain among the following groups? Rate on a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 means 'Not unequal at all' and 10 means 'Extremely unequal'. (Average by age and gender)

| | Men 16-24 years | Women 16-24 years | Men 25-34 years | Women 25-34 years | Men 35-44 years | Women 35-44 years | Men 45-54 years | Women 45-54 years | Men 55-64 years | Women 55-64 years | Men 65+ years | Women 65+ years |
|---|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Poor and rich people | 6.7 | 7.5 | 7.7 | 7.9 | 7.6 | 8.1 | 8.0 | 8.1 | 8.0 | 8.5 | 8.1 | 8.0 |
| Move from poor families and neighborhoods into poor families and neighborhoods or move from poor families and neighborhoods into wealthy families | 6.3 | 7.1 | 7.2 | 7.6 | 7.3 | 7.9 | 7.6 | 8.0 | 7.8 | 8.2 | 7.8 | 7.8 |
| Regular migration status vs. the rest of the population | 6.0 | 7.4 | 7.3 | 7.6 | 6.7 | 7.5 | 7.1 | 7.4 | 7.2 | 8.0 | 7.6 | 7.4 |
| Neighborhoods or districts within large cities | 6.3 | 6.5 | 7.1 | 7.1 | 6.7 | 7.4 | 7.0 | 7.5 | 7.3 | 7.8 | 7.4 | 7.3 |
| Urban and rural areas | 5.8 | 6.7 | 6.3 | 7.2 | 6.7 | 7.2 | 7.0 | 7.2 | 6.8 | 7.3 | 6.9 | 6.9 |
| People with disabilities and people without disabilities | 5.8 | 6.5 | 6.6 | 7.1 | 6.6 | 7.2 | 6.7 | 7.3 | 6.7 | 7.4 | 7.0 | 7.1 |
| Men and women | 5.8 | 6.6 | 6.3 | 7.0 | 5.9 | 7.1 | 5.9 | 7.0 | 5.7 | 7.2 | 6.0 | 6.7 |
| LGBTQ+ people and the rest of the population | 6.2 | 6.4 | 5.6 | 6.7 | 6.0 | 6.5 | 5.7 | 6.8 | 5.5 | 7.0 | 6.3 | 6.2 |



MEN AGED 18 TO 24 ARE THE LEAST LIKELY TO IDENTIFY INEQUALITIES among social groups in Spain, while **WOMEN AGED 55 TO 64 ARE THE MOST LIKELY TO DO SO.**

Source: 40dB.

FIGURE 11. AREAS OF INEQUALITY IN SPAIN, BY AGE AND GENDER

Q6: Do you think that in Spain, inequality exists in the following areas? Rate on a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 means 'No inequality at all' and 10 means 'A great deal of inequality'. (Average by age and gender)

| | Men 16-24 years | Women 16-24 years | Men 25-34 years | Women 25-34 years | Men 35-44 years | Women 35-44 years | Men 45-54 years | Women 45-54 years | Men 55-64 years | Women 55-64 years | Men 65+ years | Women 65+ years |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Housing | 6.1 | 7.0 | 7.2 | 7.7 | 7.2 | 7.7 | 7.2 | 7.7 | 7.5 | 7.9 | 7.4 | 7.6 |
| Economy | 5.7 | 6.9 | 6.9 | 7.6 | 7.0 | 7.6 | 7.1 | 7.6 | 7.1 | 7.7 | 7.1 | 7.3 |
| Personal and legal security | 5.3 | 6.2 | 6.6 | 6.6 | 6.6 | 6.9 | 6.6 | 7.1 | 6.9 | 7.0 | 6.6 | 6.5 |
| Within the household | 5.2 | 6.3 | 6.1 | 6.5 | 6.0 | 6.8 | 5.8 | 6.8 | 5.5 | 6.7 | 5.9 | 6.2 |
| Education | 4.9 | 5.5 | 6.2 | 6.6 | 6.2 | 6.5 | 6.1 | 6.5 | 6.0 | 6.5 | 5.8 | 5.9 |
| Health | 4.4 | 5.8 | 6.4 | 6.6 | 6.3 | 6.5 | 6.2 | 6.6 | 5.7 | 6.2 | 5.5 | 5.4 |
| Private sphere | 4.5 | 5.6 | 6.2 | 6.3 | 6.1 | 6.6 | 5.9 | 6.3 | 5.7 | 5.8 | 5.4 | 5.2 |
| Participation in political life | 4.9 | 5.8 | 6.3 | 6.1 | 5.7 | 6.2 | 5.7 | 5.9 | 5.5 | 5.4 | 5.2 | 5.1 |



CONCERN ABOUT HOUSING CUTS ACROSS men and women of all ages.

Source: 40dB.

Let us look at the most significant intersections shaping these perceptions, based on the data collected.

| | GLOBAL | SPAIN |
|---------------------|---|--|
| WOMEN | Women perceive greater inequalities across all areas. The widest gap is found in violence against women (a difference of 0.9 points) and in violence based on origin, race, identity and sexual orientation (0.7). | Housing is the main concern (0.4 points higher than among men). The widest gaps are found in perceptions of inequality between men and women (1 point), within the household (0.7), regarding LGBTQ+ people (0.7) and in the economy (0.6). |
| YOUNG PEOPLE | Concern about global phenomena tends to increase with age. Men aged 18–24 show the lowest levels of concern across the issues surveyed, with an average gender gap of 1.1 points in the 16–24 age group. | Among young people aged 18 to 34, housing is identified as the main national issue, with greater concern among young women: 7 compared to 6.1 among those aged 16 to 24, and 7.7 compared to 7.2 among those aged 25 to 34. |

INEQUALITIES CAN BE ERADICATED: PRIORITIES FOR A MORE EQUAL SOCIETY

62.4% of people in Spain believe that inequality can be eradicated.

Decent housing is seen as the top priority for reversing inequality in Spain. 41% hold this view, which is shared across all ages and social groups.

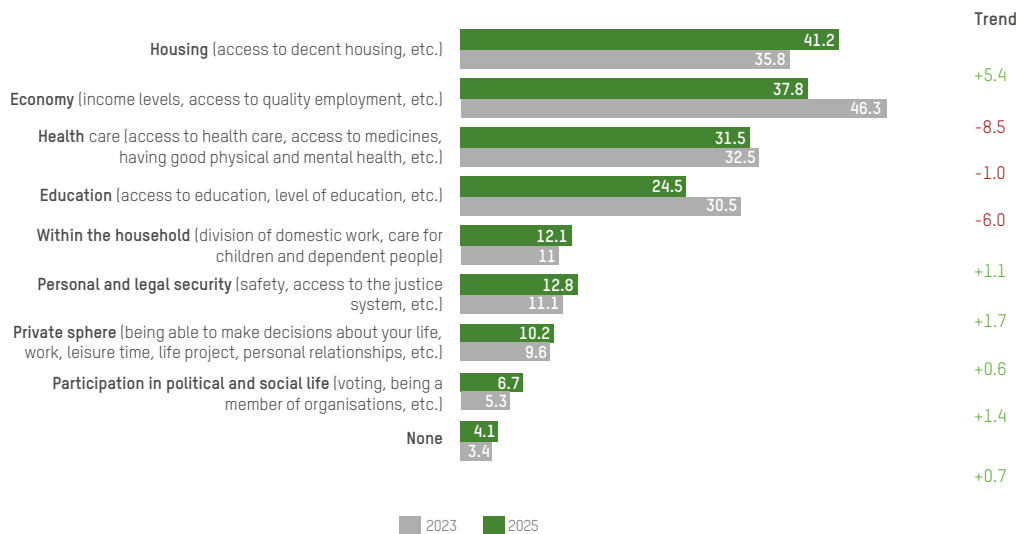
In light of the diagnosis of the previous findings, the good news is that **six in ten people in Spain believe inequality can be reversed, and four in ten hold this belief with conviction**, a figure similar to that recorded in 2023.⁶ This optimism offers a crucial starting point for moving from diagnosis to action.

Since housing was identified as the main driver of inequality, **ensuring access to decent housing emerges as the top policy priority**, with 41.2% placing it first, a rise of 5.4 percentage points compared with two years ago.

Raising income levels and expanding access to quality jobs come second, chosen by 37.8% of the population. Although this priority has fallen by 8.5 points since 2023, it climbs again to 41.6% among those who struggle to make ends meet, revealing the very different social experiences behind the economic recovery of recent years.⁷

FIGURE 12. PRIORITIES FOR FIGHTING INEQUALITY (% OF TOTAL)

Q9: Of the following areas in which inequality may exist, which do you consider a priority to address? Please choose a maximum of two. (% of total)



People who just manage to make ends meet prioritise tackling inequality in the economic domain, at 41.6%.

Source: 40dB.

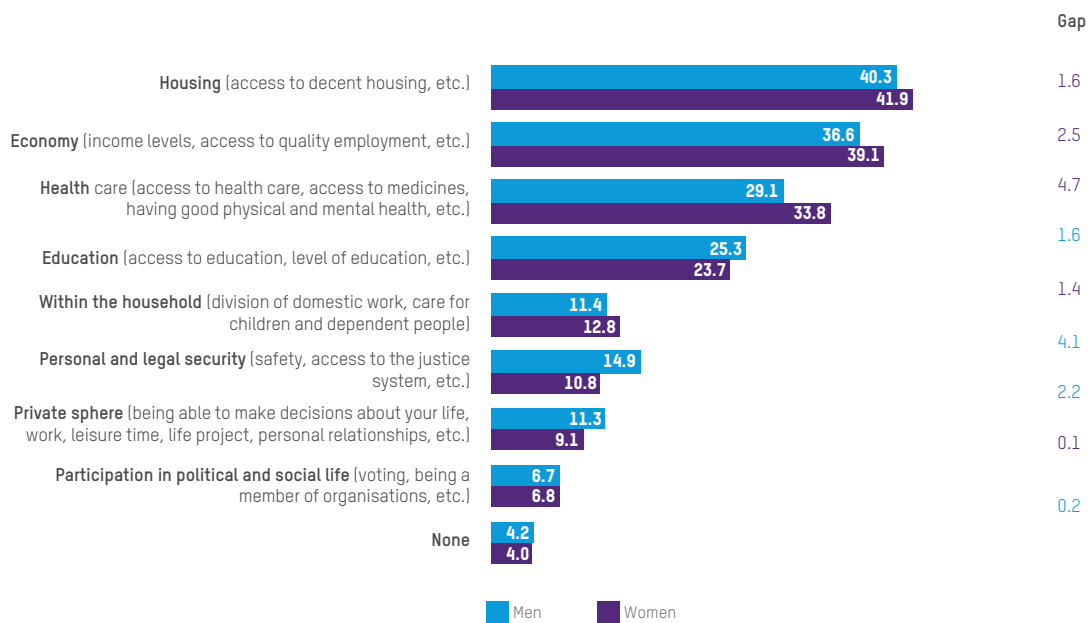
Access to high-quality public health care and education remains a cornerstone of the welfare state, ranking third and fourth among priorities, although education has fallen by six percentage points.

HOW PRIORITIES VARY ACROSS SOCIAL GROUPS

Women place a greater priority on health care, around 4.7 percentage points more than men, while men place nearly four additional points on personal and legal security. **Racialized people show greater interest in participation in political and social life**, standing 2.9 percentage points above those who do not identify as racialized. This highlights the persistent barriers to full citizenship faced by both migrants, whether in a regular or irregular situation, and by those born in Spain to migrant parents (second generation).

FIGURE 13. PRIORITIES FOR FIGHTING INEQUALITY, BY GENDER

Q9: Of the following areas in which inequality may exist, which do you consider a priority to address? Please choose a maximum of two. (% by gender)



Source: 40dB.

Priorities in the fight against inequality change across the course of people's lives, reflecting the needs and realities of each stage. Among the youngest group, aged 16–17, the main focus is on the economy, at 30.7%, followed by education at 26.2%, in a formative phase in which equal opportunities are seen as crucial for the future. At the same time, demand for political and social participation is stronger among young people, peaking between the ages of 16 and 24, at 11.2% among those aged 16–17 and 11.6% among those aged 18–24. These results echo long-standing youth demands for the vote at 16 and for a greater presence in decision-making spaces.

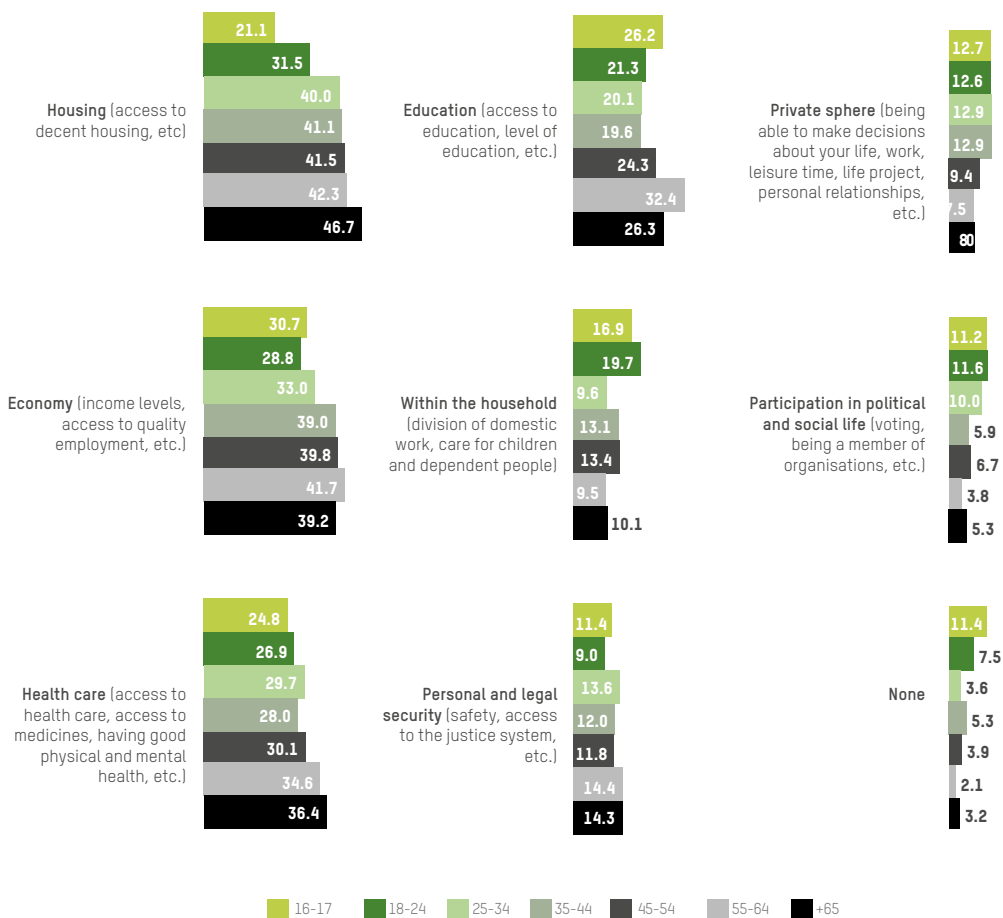
Among those aged 18–24, attention shifts from the economy and education to housing, which is cited as a priority by 31.5% of respondents, ten points more than in the previous stage. This trend intensifies among 25- to 34-year-olds, where concern about housing rises to 40%. At this stage of life, linked to the transition into adulthood, job insecurity, delayed independence, and difficulties in accessing affordable rental housing reinforce the perception of housing as a central driver of inequality.⁸

As people grow older, housing remains a central concern, but health care and the economy gain in importance, with health care rising from 24.8% among adolescents to 36.4% among those over 65, and the economy increasing from 30.7% among adolescents to 41.7% among those aged 55–64. There is also a renewed rise in the priority given to education in certain age groups.

Across all socioeconomic levels, guaranteeing access to housing is seen as the top priority for reducing inequality. Among lower-income groups, economic concerns stand out at 39.2%, and a higher proportion say that none of the proposed policies speak to them, at 8.4%, more than four points above the rest.

FIGURE 14. PRIORITIES FOR FIGHTING INEQUALITY, BY AGE

Q9: Of the following areas in which inequality may exist, which do you consider a priority to address? Please choose a maximum of two. (% by age)



Source: 40dB.

The following section is a summary of the most representative intersectional patterns.

| PRIORITIES FOR FIGHTING INEQUALITY | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| WOMEN | Place greater importance on health care (+4.7 points compared to men). Men place greater emphasis on physical and legal security (+4 points compared to women). |
| RACIALIZED PEOPLE | Greater demand for participation in political and social life (+2.9 points compared to the non-racialized population). |
| YOUNG PEOPLE | Among those aged 16–17, the economy is the top priority (30.7%), followed by education (26.2%). There is also a stronger demand for political and social participation (11.2% among those aged 16–17 and 11.6% among those aged 18–24) . Among 18 to 24-year-olds, housing has become a priority (31.5%), and among those aged 25–34 this intensifies (40%). |
| LOW SOCIO-ECONOMIC | Decent housing is the leading priority for reducing inequality across all socioeconomic groups. LOW SOCIO-ECONOMIC GROUPS Among lower-income groups, economic concerns stand out at 39.2%, and a higher proportion say that none of the proposed policies speak to them, at 8.4%, more than four points above the rest. |

Taken together, **the fact that so many people share a sense of injustice, both globally and nationally, should compel us to act.** Spanish society points to a complex web of economic, gender-based and ethno-racial asymmetries that intersect with varying intensity across population groups.

THE CHALLENGES CONTINUE



After the severe impact of the inflation crisis on household finances in 2022 and 2023,⁹ official figures suggest that Spain is entering a phase of recovery and improving well-being.

Key macroeconomic indicators¹⁰ show resilience, with GDP growth of 2.7% in 2023, 3.2% in 2024, and an average of 2.8% so far in 2025. Unemployment, according to the Labour Force Survey, has fallen from 12.2% in 2023 to 10.29% in the second quarter of 2025.¹¹ Headline inflation has eased, dropping from 3.5% in 2023 to 2.7% in July 2025.¹²

The three-month Euribor, a key indicator for households with mortgages, has fallen sharply to 2.14% in September 2025, compared with 3.43% in 2023. The public sector deficit stands at around 3%, while public debt is approximately 101.8% of GDP.

As the State Public Employment Service notes, growth is 'pivoting towards greater reliance on domestic demand, supported by falling inflation, rising wages, employment growth and lower interest rates'.¹³ This brief overview suggests that the Spanish economy is performing well.¹⁴

Yet **macroeconomic data tell only part of the story, and the lived reality of many people is very different.**¹⁵ Many of the problems identified in the previous edition of *Living Inequality* (2023) remain deeply felt, reinforcing a sense of uncertainty and vulnerability, particularly among certain social groups. Let us now look more closely at these 'challenges that continue'.

PERCEPTIONS OF ECONOMIC AND EMPLOYMENT WELL-BEING CONTINUE TO STAGNATE

30% of people surveyed believe their income does not allow them to live with dignity. This situation is more acute among women, racialized people and households from lower socioeconomic backgrounds.

Four in ten people say their working life is not good. This is particularly true for those in part-time, temporary or discontinuous permanent contracts. Women, people from lower socioeconomic backgrounds and young people, especially 18- to 24-year-olds, are also disproportionately affected.

More than a third, 37.5%, say they need a second job for financial reasons to live with dignity, especially women and racialized people.

Despite record labour market figures in recent years, dissatisfaction remains widespread. **In 2023, more than half of respondents to *Living Inequality* said they were not satisfied with their economic situation.** And four in ten said their working life was not good.

An intersectional lens revealed even sharper disparities. For example, women were far more likely than men to feel economically dissatisfied, with 59.8% compared with 48.8%, and they were also more likely to report negative work experiences, at 49.1% compared with 24.5%. The same pattern emerged across socioeconomic groups. Most people from low-income households reported poorer economic situations and lower job satisfaction. This pattern was also seen among racialized people, with 66% saying they were 'little or not at all satisfied' with their economic situation, and among those aged 16–34, whose scores were substantially worse than those of people over 45.

In this new edition, high levels of economic and labour dissatisfaction persist. Let us break down the main findings.

Almost 30% of respondents say their current income does not allow them to live with dignity, nearly three percentage points more than in 2023.

FIGURE 15. INCOME AND LIVING WITH DIGNITY

Q21: Does your current income (salary, pension, unemployment benefit, etc.) allow you to live with dignity? Rate on a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 means 'Not at all' and 10 means 'Yes, completely' (% of total)

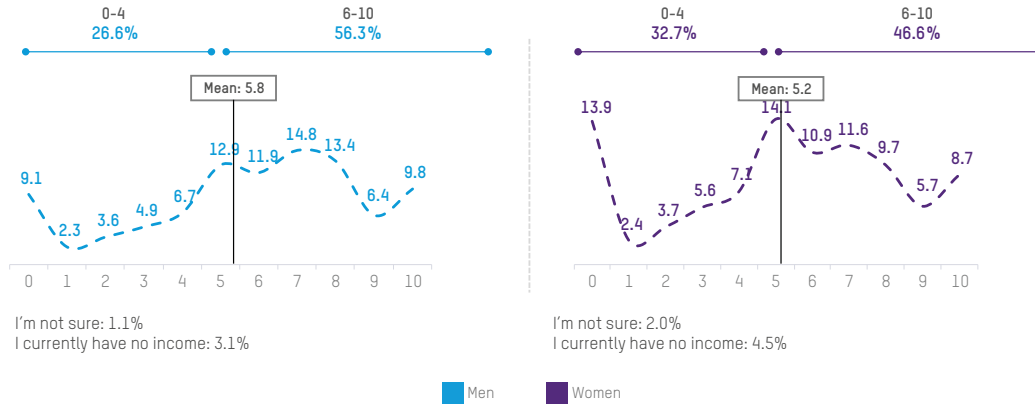


Source: 40dB.

When these results are broken down through an intersectional lens, **32.7% of women say their income does not allow them to live with dignity, compared with 26.6% of men.**

FIGURE 16. INCOME AND LIVING WITH DIGNITY, BY GENDER

Q21: Does your current income (salary, pension, unemployment benefit, etc.) allow you to live with dignity? Rate on a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 means 'Not at all' and 10 means 'Yes, completely' (% by gender)

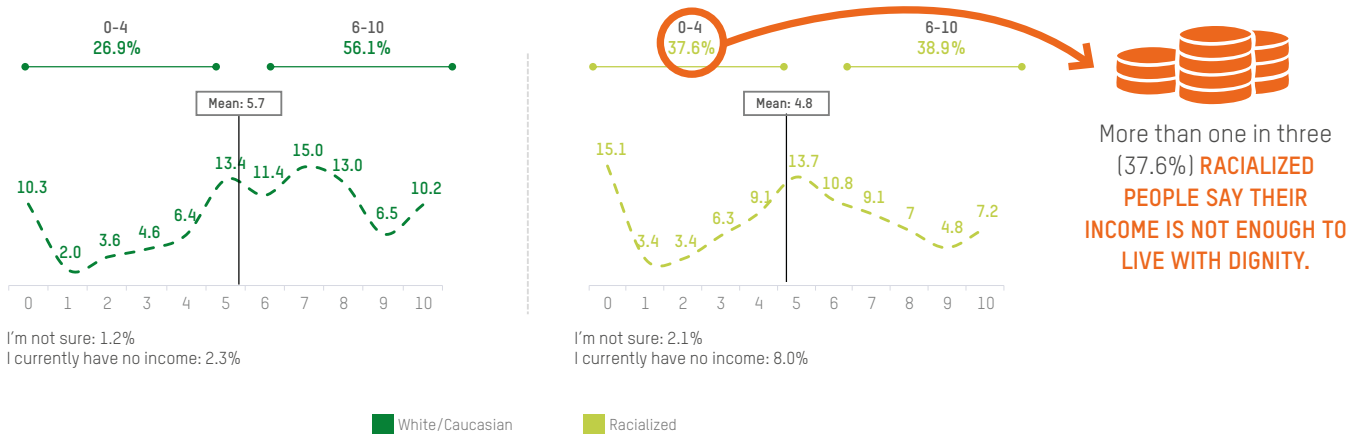


Source: 40dB.

The same pattern is seen among **racialized people**, with 37.6% saying their income makes it harder to live with dignity, compared with 26.9% among the rest of the population. In addition, 8% of racialized respondents say they currently have no income at all, compared with 2.3% among the rest of those surveyed.

FIGURE 17. INCOME AND LIVING WITH DIGNITY, BY ETHNIC OR RACIAL IDENTITY

Q21: Does your current income (salary, pension, unemployment benefit, etc.) allow you to live with dignity? Rate on a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 means 'Not at all' and 10 means 'Yes, completely' (% by ethnic/racial identity)

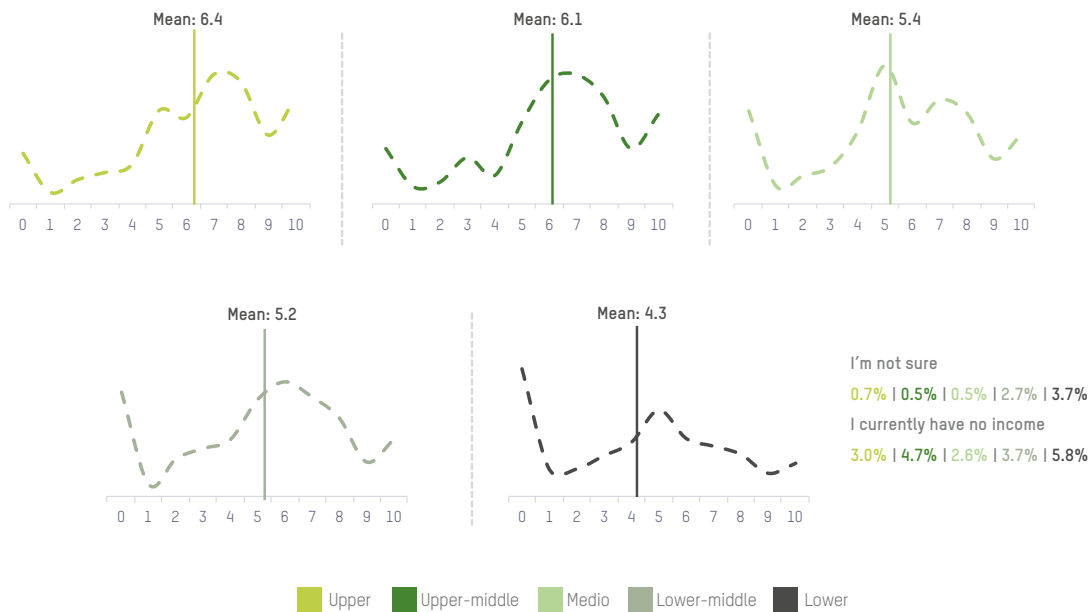


Source: 40dB.

A similar pattern emerges when looking at socioeconomic status. As in 2023, **people from lower-resource backgrounds are again the most likely to say that their income does not allow them to live with dignity.** On a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 means it is not at all possible to live with dignity on current income and 10 means it is completely possible, people in low socioeconomic groups average just 4.3, compared with 6.4 among those in high socioeconomic groups and 6.1 among those in the upper-middle group. The gap between these groups is striking. The following chart illustrates this pattern more clearly.

FIGURE 18. INCOME AND LIVING WITH DIGNITY, BY SOCIOECONOMIC LEVEL

Q21: Does your current income (salary, pension, unemployment benefit, etc.) allow you to live with dignity? Rate on a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 means 'Not at all' and 10 means 'Yes, completely' (% by socioeconomic level)



Source: 40dB.

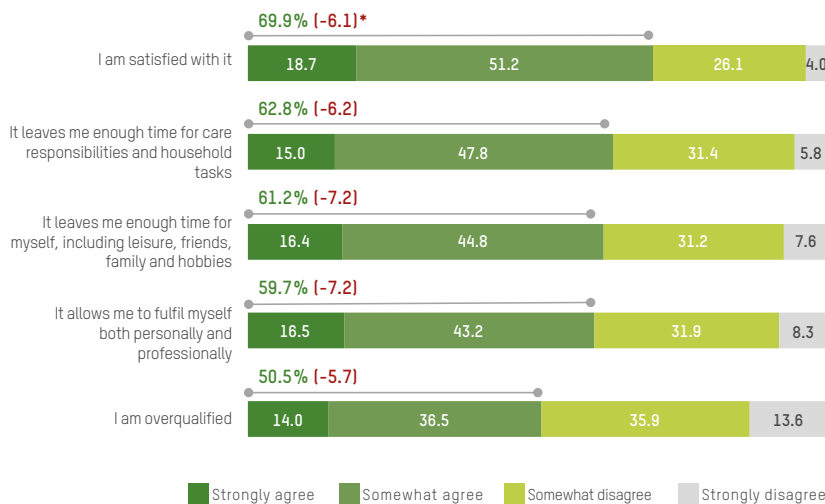
It is worth setting these perceptions alongside the latest figures from Spain's National Statistics Institute and its *Annual Wage Structure Survey (EAES)*.¹⁶ Taken together, the data point to a clear conclusion: **Spain remains a low-wage country compared with others in its immediate context.** Spain's wage structure shows that many households are living on tight incomes, especially once the rise in the cost of living since the inflation crisis and the increase in housing prices are taken into account.¹⁷

As in 2023, **perceptions of working life also present a mixed picture.** Although most people say they are satisfied with their job, overall assessments of working life have deteriorated across several dimensions. **In 2023, 75.9% of respondents said they were very or fairly satisfied with their working lives, while in 2025 this figure falls to 69.9%, a drop of six points.**

The following chart shows that, across different areas such as work-life balance, enjoyment of free time, personal and professional fulfilment, and overqualification, perceptions remain broadly positive but are noticeably less favourable than in the 2023 edition, with declines of between five and seven points.¹⁸

FIGURE 19. JOB SATISFACTION

Q22: Thinking about your main job, the one that provides most of your income, to what extent do you identify with the following statements? (% of respondents who are currently working)



3 in 10 people say they are **LITTLE OR NOT AT ALL SATISFIED WITH THEIR JOB.**



80.1% of people who are able to **save** say they are very or fairly **satisfied with their job.**

Source: 40dB.

When we break the data down further, **workers on full-time permanent contracts report the highest levels of job satisfaction. By contrast, people on part-time contracts and those on temporary or discontinuous permanent contracts are less satisfied.** Job satisfaction is higher in full-time roles than in part-time ones, at 69.9% compared with 61.4%. The same pattern is seen for contract type, with 69.3% of those on permanent contracts satisfied compared with 61.4% of those on discontinuous permanent contracts.

This shows how both **the intensity and the quality of work shape people’s experience of economic inequality.** These perceptions align closely with the reality of ‘in-work poverty’, which Oxfam Intermón has analysed in depth.¹⁹ In Spain, 13.7% of people in work, almost three million, are living in poverty, and this figure more than doubles among migrants, reaching 29.5%. Nearly 30% of workers in agriculture and in domestic work are affected by in-work poverty. The same is true for 40% of large families and 30% of single-parent households. **Part-time work and self-employment leave around one in four workers in these categories living in poverty.** It is therefore no surprise that people’s views mirror this harsh reality.

FIGURE 20. JOB SATISFACTION, BY EMPLOYMENT TYPE

Q22: Thinking about your main job, the one that provides most of your income, to what extent do you identify with the following statements? (% of respondents who are currently working, by working hours and contract type)



Source: 40dB.

From an intersectional perspective, clear differences emerge. **Women are less satisfied with their jobs than men, with 66.7% compared with 73.2%,** and they also feel that their work leaves them less time for themselves and for care and work-life balance.

These findings resonate with Oxfam Intermón’s recent research on care. In a report entitled *The care account*,²⁰ **36.7% of women said inequality in the sharing of domestic responsibilities was very high, compared with just 23.5% of men.**

These inequalities play out in everyday life. More than half of women said they always or almost always do the laundry, compared with just 13.3% of men. The same pattern appears in care for dependent people, which is taken on by 39% of women compared with 24% of men.

FIGURE 21. JOB SATISFACTION, BY GENDER

Q22: Thinking about your main job, the one that provides most of your income, to what extent do you identify with the following statements? [% of people who are currently working, by gender]



53% OF WOMEN SAY THEY ARE OVERQUALIFIED for the job they do, compared with 48% of men.

Source: 40dB.

The same pattern is seen among **people from lower socioeconomic backgrounds**. They report lower job satisfaction and say their work leaves them less time for themselves and their responsibilities. The figures speak for themselves, with 77.9% of people in high socioeconomic groups saying they are very satisfied with their job, compared with just 48.5% among those from the lowest strata. The following chart shows this contrast more clearly.

FIGURE 22. JOB SATISFACTION, BY SOCIOECONOMIC LEVEL

Q22: Thinking about your main job, the one that provides most of your income, to what extent do you identify with the following statements? [% of respondents who say 'Very much' or 'Fairly', by socioeconomic level]



Source: 40dB.

Young people record the most critical levels of job satisfaction. They are also the group most likely to feel 'overqualified', often accompanied by a sense of stagnation or limited prospects.²¹ Only 51.1% of 18- to 24-year-olds who are in work say their job allows them to fulfil themselves, compared with 59.3% among 45- to 54-year-olds and 62% among adults aged 55 to 64. In short, older people tend to feel more satisfied with their jobs.

FIGURE 23. JOB SATISFACTION, BY AGE

Q22: Thinking about your main job, the one that provides most of your income, to what extent do you identify with the following statements? (% of respondents who say 'Very much' or 'Fairly', by age)

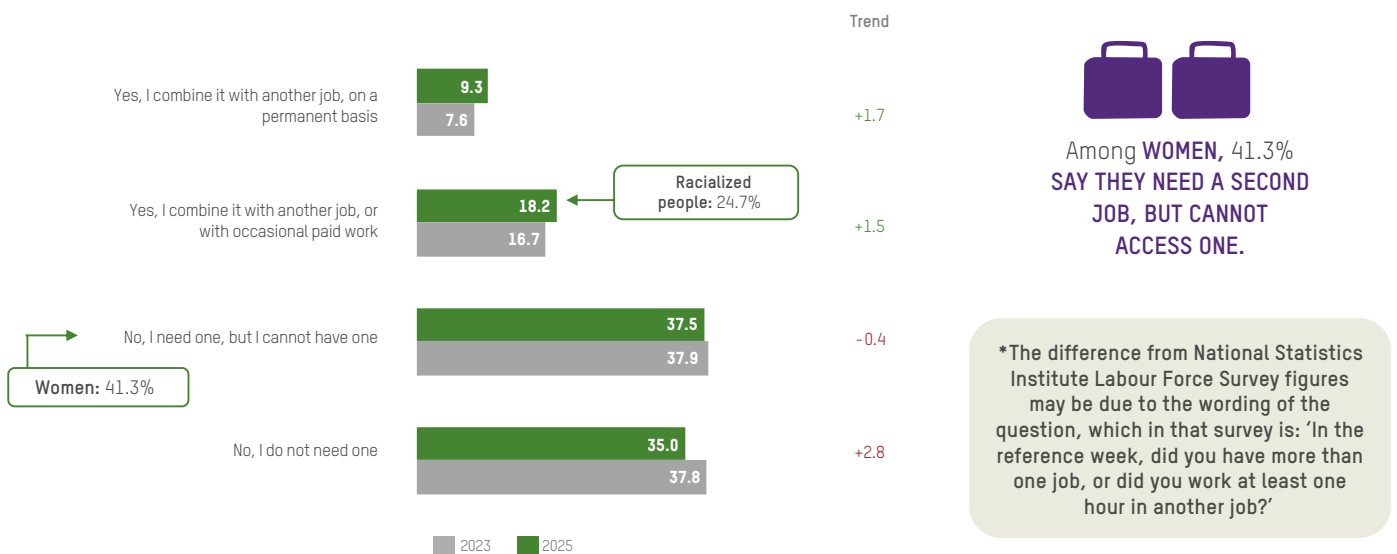


Source: 40dB.

Another way this dissatisfaction shows up is in the fact that **37.5% of respondents say they would need a second job for financial reasons to live with dignity**, even though they cannot take one on because of lack of time, care responsibilities or other constraints. These figures have changed little since 2023. An intersectional lens once again reveals important differences. **Women are more likely to say they would need a second job**, at 41.3% compared with 33.7% of men. A similar pattern is seen among **racialized people**, who are more likely to have to juggle multiple jobs to live with dignity, at 24.7% compared with 18.2% among the rest of the sample.

FIGURE 24. NEED FOR A SECOND JOB

Q23: In addition to your main job, do you have another job because you need it financially? (% of people who are currently working)



Source: 40dB.

EVERYDAY SACRIFICES PERSIST

Over 60% of respondents say they have had to buy discounted or cheaper products, or shop in low-cost supermarkets.

43.6% say they cannot afford even one week of holiday a year.

40.1% have no buffer to cope with an unexpected expense of more than €600.

A third of respondents have delayed payments or renegotiated loans, and almost a quarter have sought financial help from relatives or charities. There is also a rise in those cutting back on education or requesting salary advances.

From an intersectional perspective, these pressures fall most heavily on women, young people, racialized people and households with fewer economic resources.

Racialized people in particular have been forced to cut back on meat, fish, and fresh fruit and vegetables. They have also had to cut back more sharply on education-related spending, including school supplies, school meals and extracurricular activities. The same applies to postponing or delaying payments and credit, seeking help from family members or institutions, or asking for wage advances. In all these areas, the gap compared with the rest of the population is between 10 and 15 percentage points.

In the previous edition of *Living Inequality*, we documented the main impacts of the inflation crisis of 2022 and 2023. As in other European countries, this crisis hit household finances directly. The results of our first survey revealed worrying levels of everyday sacrifices made by many households just to make ends meet. **More than half of respondents had to cut back on food, leisure, clothing and footwear.**²² Four in ten reduced their consumption of meat or fish, and 38.2% could not cover unexpected expenses of more than €600. Among people in low socioeconomic groups, cuts in fruit, vegetables, meat, fish, other basic foods (milk, eggs, potatoes, oil), clothing, and footwear were more than 10 points above the population average.

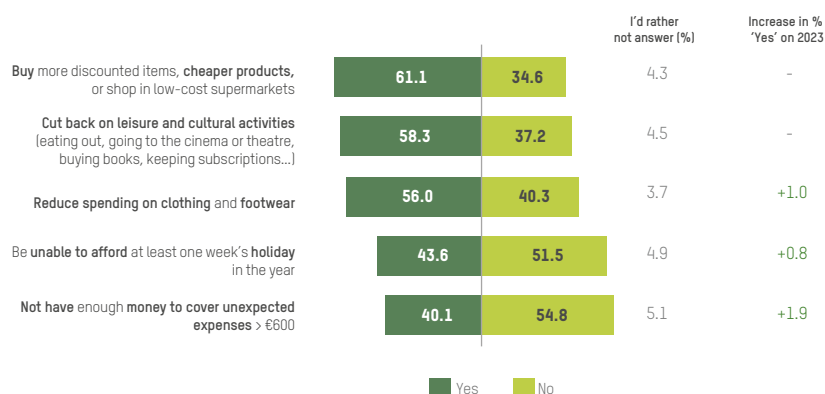
These figures became even more worrying when viewed through an intersectional lens because they affected women, racialized people and low-income households most severely.

The latest data show that these everyday sacrifices persist. Despite lower inflation and an increase in the statutory minimum wage, **more than 60% of respondents say they have had to buy discounted or cheaper products, or shop in low-cost supermarkets** over the past year for financial reasons.

The same is true for cuts in spending on clothing, footwear, leisure and cultural activities, with more than half of respondents affected in each case. In addition, **43.6% say they cannot afford a week's holiday in a year, and 40.1% do not have enough money to cope with unexpected costs of more than €600**, a slight increase on 2023.

FIGURE 25. EVERYDAY SACRIFICES DUE TO FINANCIAL HARDSHIP (I)

Q24: Over the past year, because of financial difficulties, have you found yourself in any of the following situations? (% of total)



6 in 10 people **HAVE BOUGHT MORE DISCOUNTED OR CHEAPER PRODUCTS.**



People who **cannot**, or who **struggle to make ends meet** report making **more sacrifices** across all of these areas.

Source: 40dB.

These figures show that **the sacrifices people made during the inflation crisis have not fully disappeared**, and that many are still living with ongoing financial strain.²³

Once again, an intersectional lens helps us understand who is being hit hardest. **Women are more affected by economic hardship than men, with two in three buying discounted products and more than 60% cutting back on leisure and culture.** The same pattern is seen in spending on clothing and footwear, with 62.4% of women affected compared with 49.4% of men. Almost half of women (47.9%) cannot afford to take even one week’s holiday a year, compared with 38.9% of men. 43.6% of women do not have enough money to cover unexpected costs of more than €600, compared with 36.1% of men.

FIGURE 26. EVERYDAY SACRIFICES DUE TO FINANCIAL HARDSHIP (I), BY GENDER

Q24: Over the past year, because of financial difficulties, have you found yourself in any of the following situations? (% by gender)



OMEN BEAR THE BRUNT OF THE ECONOMIC IMPACT: More than 60% have cut back on leisure and culture.

People with fewer economic resources are also more likely to have to give up leisure, clothing, and holidays, and nearly half say they do not have enough money to cover unexpected expenses of more than €600, at 49.3% compared with 34.2% among those on middle-to-high incomes.²⁴ In addition, 55% say they cannot afford even one week’s holiday a year, almost 20 points higher than among people on middle-to-high incomes, at 37.8%. The following graph gives a fuller picture.

FIGURE 27. EVERYDAY SACRIFICES DUE TO FINANCIAL HARDSHIP (I), BY SOCIOECONOMIC LEVEL

P24: Over the past year, because of financial difficulties, have you found yourself in any of the following situations? (% of respondents who say 'Yes' by socioeconomic level)

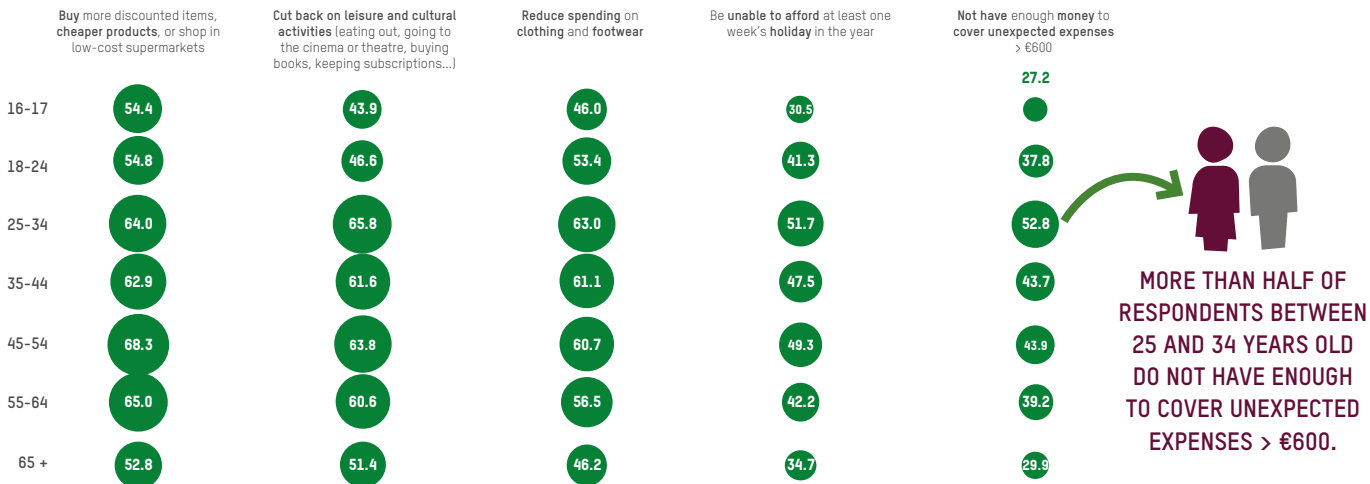


Source: 40dB.

Looking at age differences, **people aged 25- to 34-year-olds are in a comparatively worse position when it comes to the sacrifices they have had to make.** 64% say they are buying more discounted or cheaper products, or shopping in budget supermarkets, compared with 52.8% of people aged over 65. 65.8% say they have had to cut back on leisure and cultural activities, compared with 51.4% of people aged over 65. 51.7% say they cannot afford to take at least one week's holiday a year, compared with 34.7% of people aged over 65, and 52.8% say they would not be able to cover an unexpected expense of more than €600, compared with 29.9% of people aged over 65. When we compare these figures across the different measures, we see gaps of more than 15 points in many cases, pointing to deep intergenerational inequalities in how people experience hardship.

FIGURE 28. EVERYDAY SACRIFICES DUE TO FINANCIAL HARDSHIP (I), BY AGE

Q24: Over the past year, because of financial difficulties, have you found yourself in any of the following situations? (% of respondents who say 'Yes', by age)

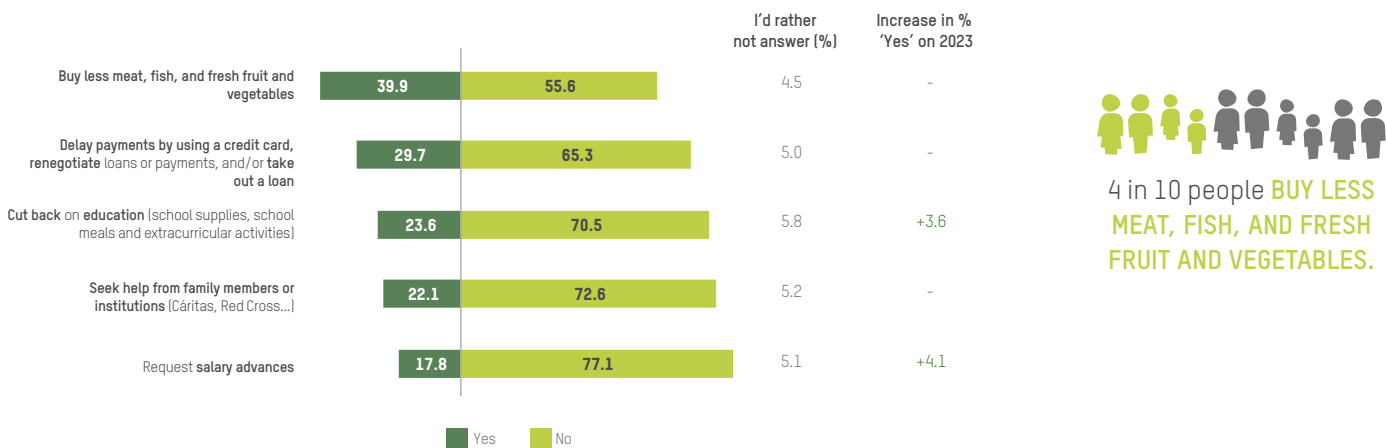


Source: 40dB.

All these sacrifices are reflected in other troubling signs. For example, **a third of respondents have delayed payments or renegotiated loans, and almost a quarter have sought financial help from relatives or charities.**

FIGURE 29. EVERYDAY SACRIFICES DUE TO FINANCIAL HARDSHIP (II)

Q24: Over the past year, because of financial difficulties, have you found yourself in any of the following situations? (% of total)



Source: 40dB.

Viewing these figures through people’s real-life situations gives us a clearer picture of who is being hardest hit by the cost-of-living crisis.

People aged 25 to 34 are the group most likely to find themselves making sacrifices because of financial pressure. Just over half, 51.2%, are buying fewer fresh products, compared with 39.4% of 55- to 64-year-olds.

A similar gap appears when it comes to delaying payments or renegotiating loans and credit, with 38.8% of 25- to 34-year-olds affected compared with 26.6% of 55- to 64-year-olds. The same pattern emerges in other areas, including education, asking family members or charities for help, and requesting wage advances. These differences are likely linked to the greater economic and job stability of older people, but they still highlight stark generational divides.

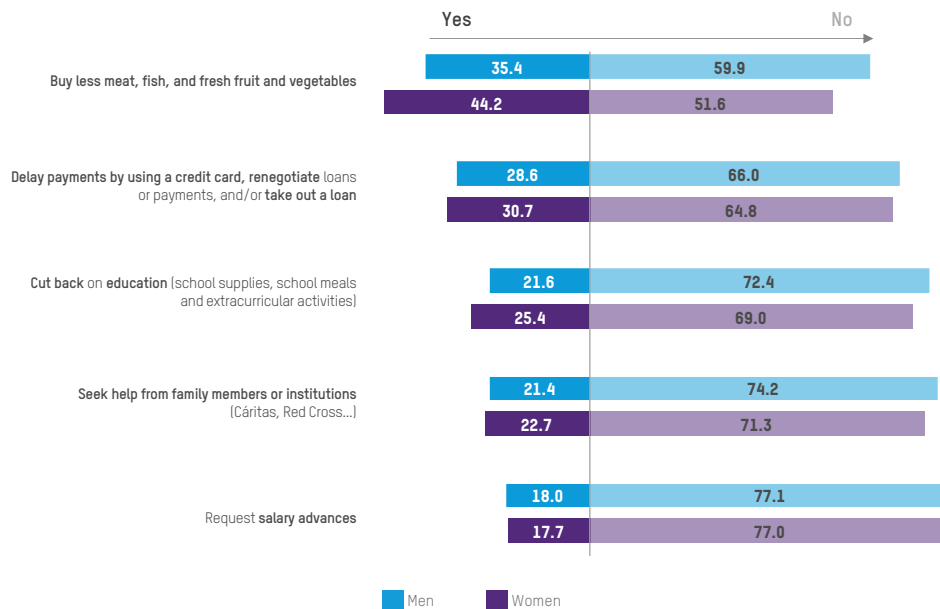
The same trend appears even more sharply when we look at ethnicity and racialization. **Racialized people have been more likely to cut back on meat, fish, and fresh fruit and vegetables**, at 49% compared with 36.7% for the rest of the population. They have also had to **reduce spending on education**, including school supplies, meals and after-school activities, at 31.6% compared with 20.7% for others. The same applies to **delaying or postponing payments and credit** (37.3% compared to 27.2%), seeking help from family members or institutions (31% compared to 18.7%), and asking for wage advances (27.4% compared to 14.7%), with gaps of between 10 and 15 points in every case.

This pattern also holds when we look at people’s socioeconomic level. **One in two people on low incomes have had to cut back on fresh food, at 50.6%, and around three in ten have had to delay payments (25.3%), cut education spending (29.2%) or seek financial help from families or institutions (32.6%).** Even people on middle incomes have been affected.

Overall, **a significant share of the population says they are still living with different forms of financial strain.** The following charts show these patterns in more detail.

FIGURE 30. EVERYDAY SACRIFICES DUE TO FINANCIAL HARDSHIP (II), BY GENDER

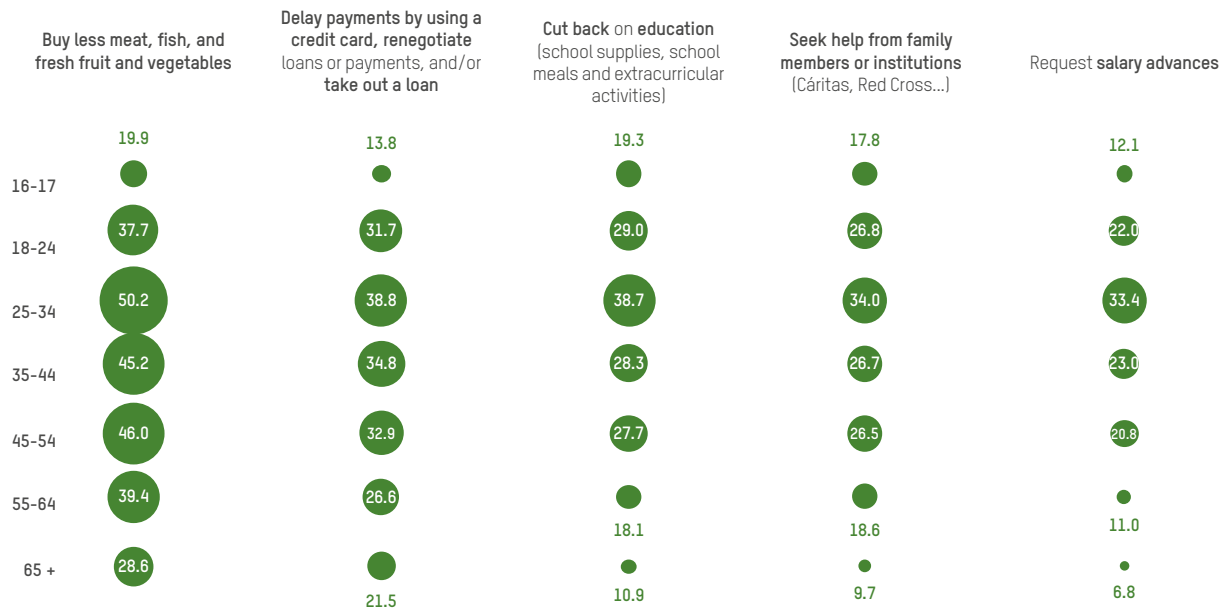
P24: Over the past year, because of financial difficulties, have you found yourself in any of the following situations? (% by gender)



Source: 40dB.

FIGURE 31. EVERYDAY SACRIFICES DUE TO FINANCIAL HARDSHIP (II), BY AGE

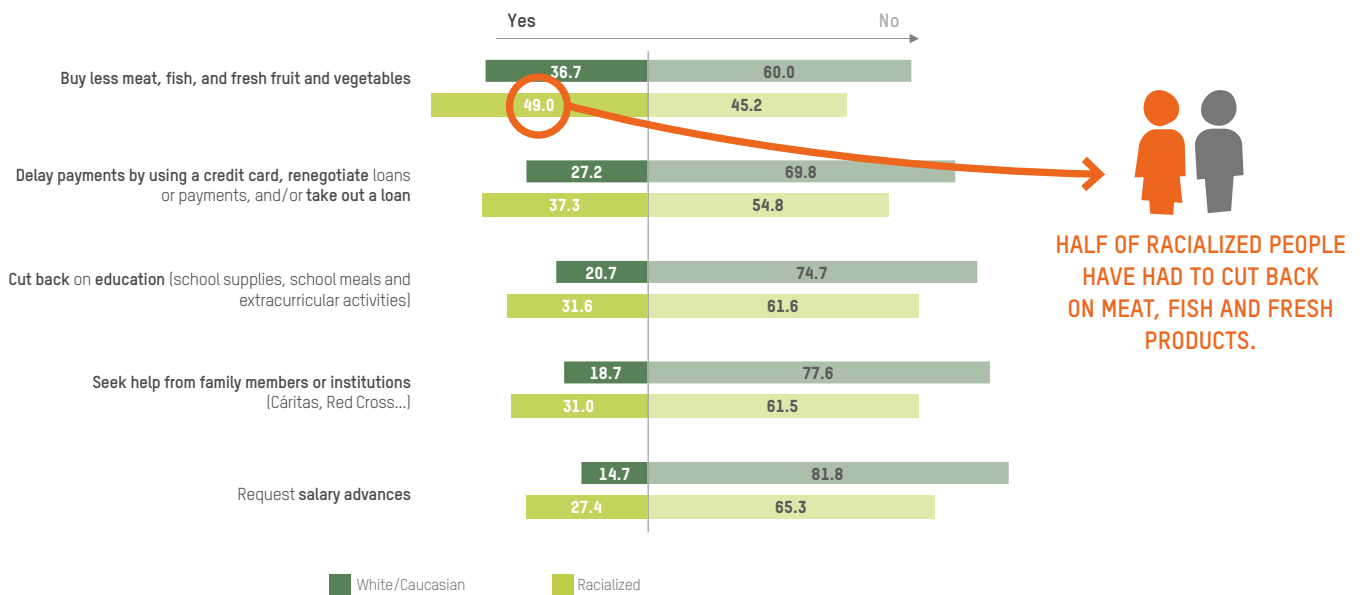
Q24: Over the past year, because of financial difficulties, have you found yourself in any of the following situations? (% of respondents who say 'Yes', by age)



Source: 40dB.

FIGURE 32. EVERYDAY SACRIFICES DUE TO FINANCIAL HARDSHIP (II), BY ETHNIC OR RACIAL IDENTITY

Q24: Over the past year, because of financial difficulties, have you found yourself in any of the following situations? (% by ethnic/racial identity)



Source: 40dB.

ADVANCES AND CHALLENGES IN HEALTH

Most people report feeling positive about both their physical and mental health, but this varies sharply across different social groups, especially among those who struggle to make ends meet, young people and women, who tend to be less satisfied.

Perceptions of mental health improve slightly with age, higher socioeconomic level, being male and having a greater ability to save.

There are worrying cutbacks in health care for financial reasons, particularly in dental care, mental health and physical therapies such as physiotherapy. These cutbacks primarily affect women, young people and racialized people.

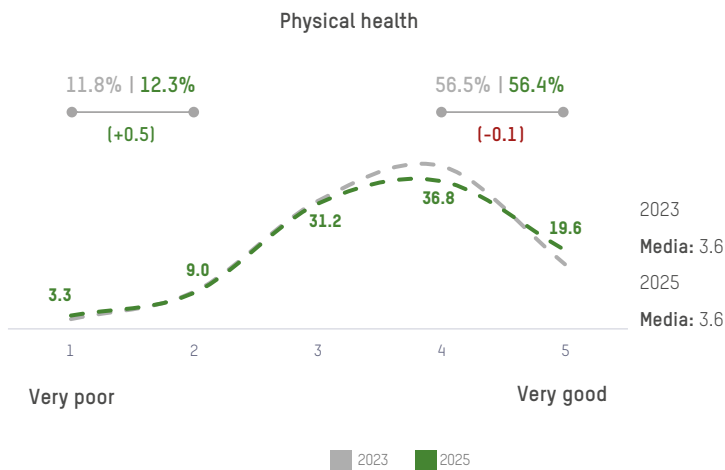
As we already noted in the previous edition of *Living Inequality*, **socioeconomic conditions play a central role in people’s physical and emotional well-being**. People’s living conditions are a major ‘social determinant of health’. This section explores how these social conditions drive inequalities in health.

Overall, people in Spain tend to view their health positively. 56.4% of respondents rate their physical health as good, and only 12.3% describe it as ‘bad’, figures that are almost unchanged from 2023. Mental health is also rated positively by 65.4% of people, continuing the upward trend from 2023, when the figure was 63.6%.

Even so, looking at the data through an intersectional lens reveals striking differences. For example, **people who cannot make ends meet are far more likely to rate their physical health as ‘bad’**, at 21.3%, which is twice the overall average. The next chart shows this pattern clearly.

FIGURE 33. RATING HEALTH

Q15: How would you rate your current state of mental health? Rate on a scale from 1 to 5, where 1 means ‘Very poor’ and 5 means ‘Very good’ (% of total)

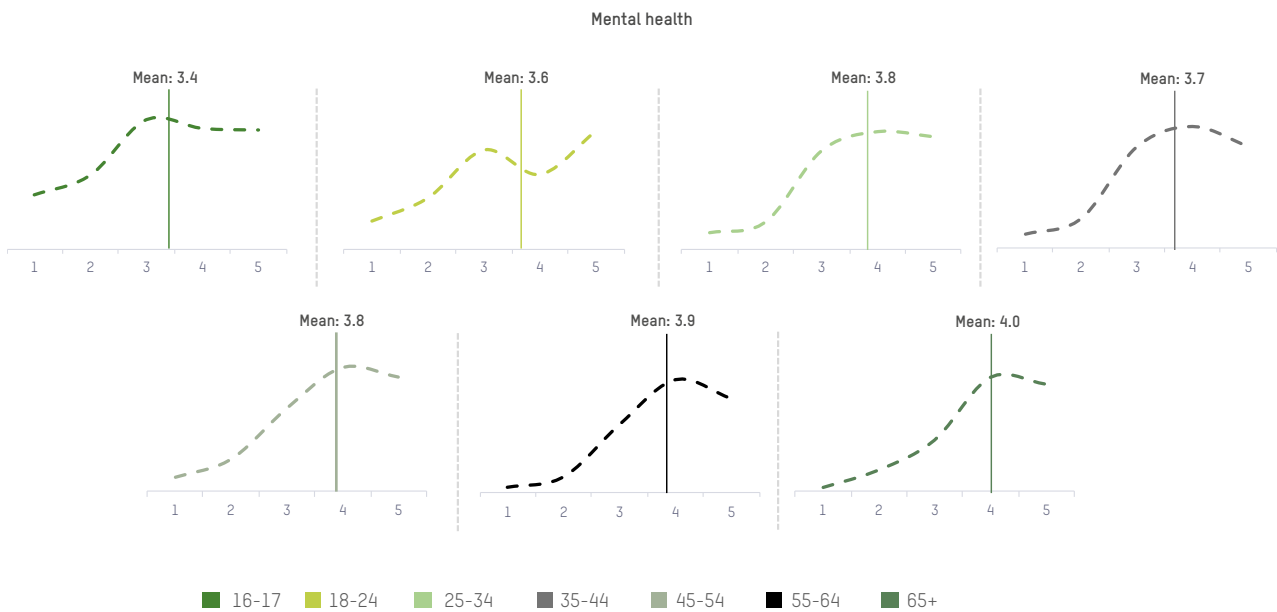


Source: 40dB.

Perceptions of mental health improve slightly with age, higher socioeconomic level, being male and having a greater ability to save. Having adequate income is linked to better mental health. The same is true for people who have not had to make financial cutbacks. The following charts show this more clearly, particularly by age.

FIGURE 34. RATING MENTAL HEALTH, BY AGE

Q15: How would you rate your current state of mental health? Rate on a scale from 1 to 5, where 1 means 'Very poor' and 5 means 'Very good' (% by age)



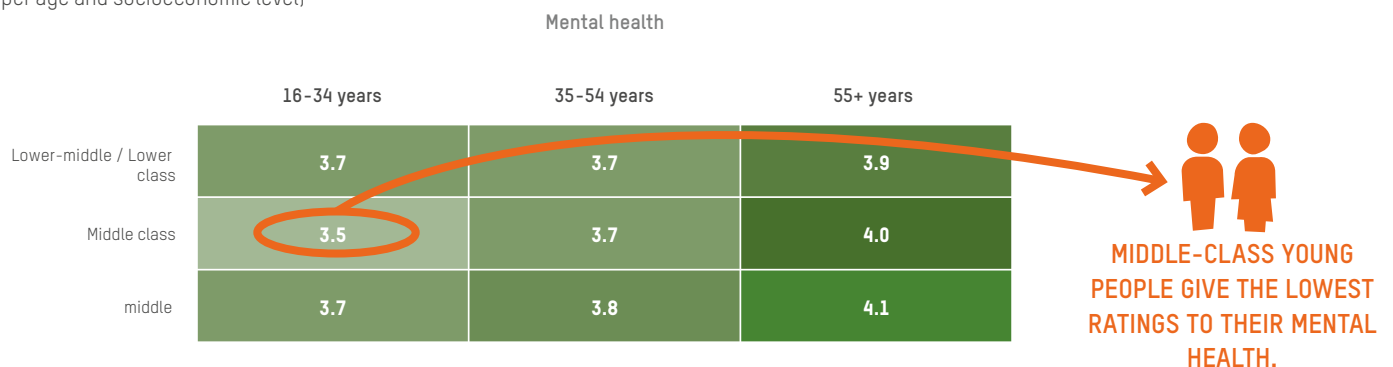
Source: 40dB.

When we look at age and social class together, **people aged over 55 from more affluent backgrounds report the best mental health**, with an average score of 4.1 out of 5. By contrast, people aged 16 to 34 in the middle class give the lowest ratings, at 3.5 out of 5, although the gap is relatively small.

A similar pattern appears when we look at other factors. For example, **people with a greater ability to save report better mental health**. In the same vein, people who have not had to make financial cutbacks report an average mental health score of 4.1 out of 5, compared with 3.7 out of 5 among those who have had to make cutbacks.

FIGURE 35. RATING MENTAL HEALTH, BY AGE AND SOCIOECONOMIC LEVEL

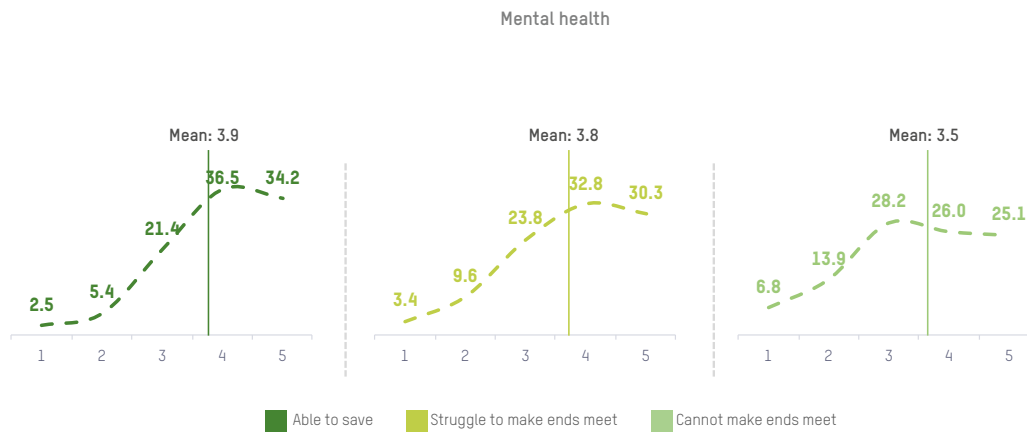
Q15: How would you rate your current state of mental health? Rate on a scale from 1 to 5, where 1 means 'Very poor' and 5 means 'Very good' (Mean score per age and socioeconomic level)



Source: 40dB.

FIGURE 36. RATING MENTAL HEALTH, BY ABILITY TO SAVE

Q15: How would you rate your current state of mental health? Rate on a scale from 1 to 5, where 1 means 'Very poor' and 5 means 'Very good' (% by ability to save)



Source: 40dB.

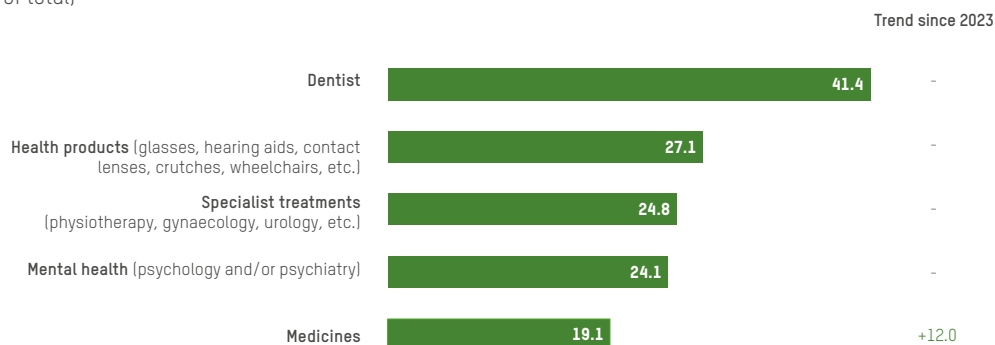
This year, another important trend has emerged, with **almost four in ten respondents having private health insurance and one in four holding dental insurance**, around 2.5 points higher than in 2023. These figures point to the growing risk of a 'two-tier' health system, a trend also identified in other studies.²⁵

For this reason, one of Oxfam Intermón's main concerns is the **number of people who are being forced to give up health care because they cannot afford it**. As in 2023, dental care remains the area where most people are forced to go without treatment. This year **41.4% say they have had to skip going to the dentist because they could not afford it**, a figure similar to that seen in 2023. There are also high levels of unmet need for medical products such as glasses, hearing aids, contact lenses, crutches, and wheelchairs, affecting 27.1% of respondents. A further 24.8% have had to give up specialist treatments such as physiotherapy or gynaecology. Cuts in spending on medicines stand out, with 19.1% affected, an increase of 12 points compared to 2023.

All of this shows that **households are still having to cut back on health spending**, especially on care that is either outside the National Health Service's standard package²⁶ or chronically underfunded, such as mental health (psychology and psychiatry).²⁷

FIGURE 37. CUTBACKS IN HEALTH SPENDING

Q16: In the last year, have you or anyone in your household had to give up any of the following services or products because you could not afford them? Select all that apply. (% of total)



i Those who **cannot make ends meet** say they have had to make more sacrifices.

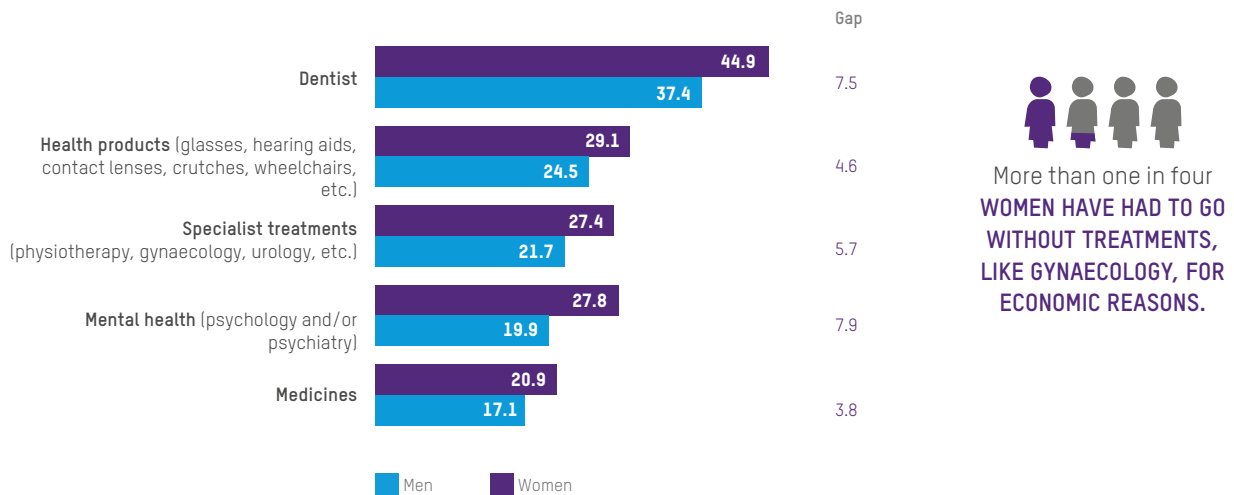
Source: 40dB.

An intersectional view once again reveals stark inequalities. For example, **financial pressures mean women are more likely than men to miss out on dental care**, at 44.9% compared with 37.4%. Women are also more likely to go without specialist treatments such as physiotherapy or rehabilitation, at 27.4% compared with 21.7%.

The same is true for mental health care, with 27.8% of women unable to afford psychological or psychiatric treatment, compared with 19.9% of men. As the following chart shows, women are more often forced to go without essential health services.

FIGURE 38. SACRIFICES IN HEALTH SPENDING, BY GENDER

Q16: In the last year, have you or anyone in your household had to give up any of the following services or products because you could not afford them? Select all that apply. [% by gender]



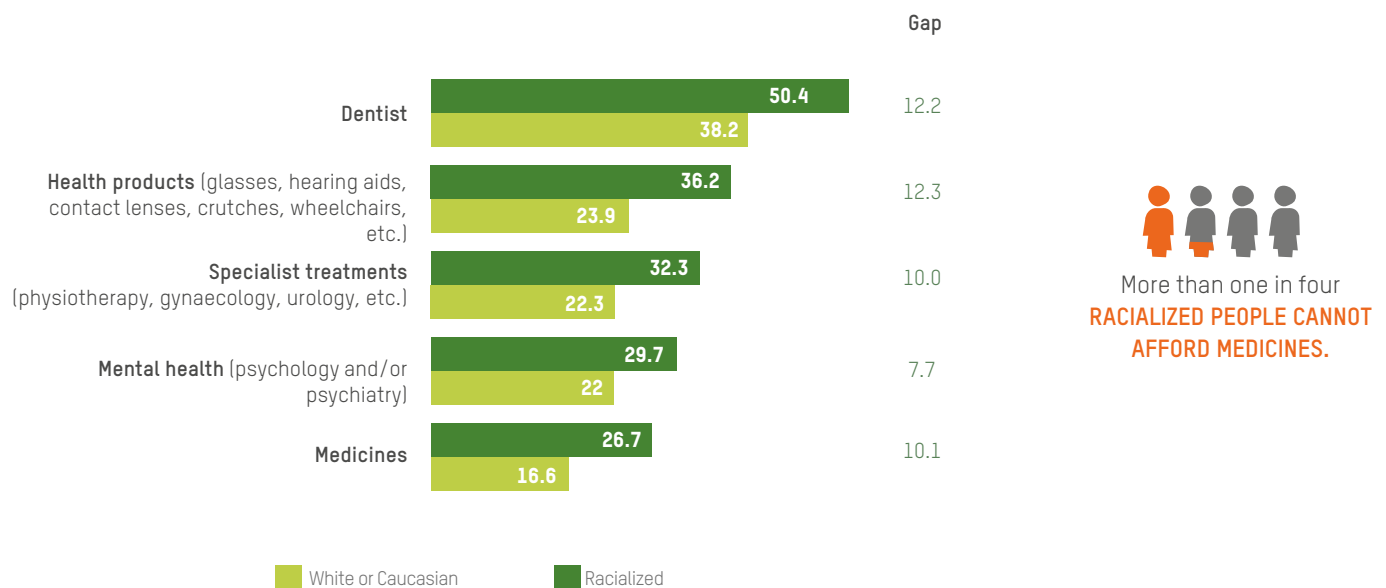
More than one in four **WOMEN** HAVE HAD TO GO WITHOUT TREATMENTS, LIKE GYNAECOLOGY, FOR ECONOMIC REASONS.

Source: 40dB.

A similar pattern emerges when we compare racialized and non-racialized people. Across every item in the survey, racialized people report having had to make deeper cutbacks, especially in dental care, health products and specialist treatments.

FIGURE 39. SACRIFICES IN HEALTH SPENDING, BY ETHNIC OR RACIAL IDENTITY

Q16: In the last year, have you or anyone in your household had to give up any of the following services or products because you could not afford them? Select all that apply. [% by ethnic/racial identity]



More than one in four **RACIALIZED PEOPLE** CANNOT AFFORD MEDICINES.

Source: 40dB.

WHEN LIFELONG LEARNING IS NOT ALWAYS POSSIBLE

Almost half of the people surveyed would have liked to continue studying or improving their skills, but the need to earn an income and the cost of education got in the way. This figure rises to 57.3% among people who cannot make ends meet. These barriers also vary widely by age, ethnicity, gender, and socioeconomic status.

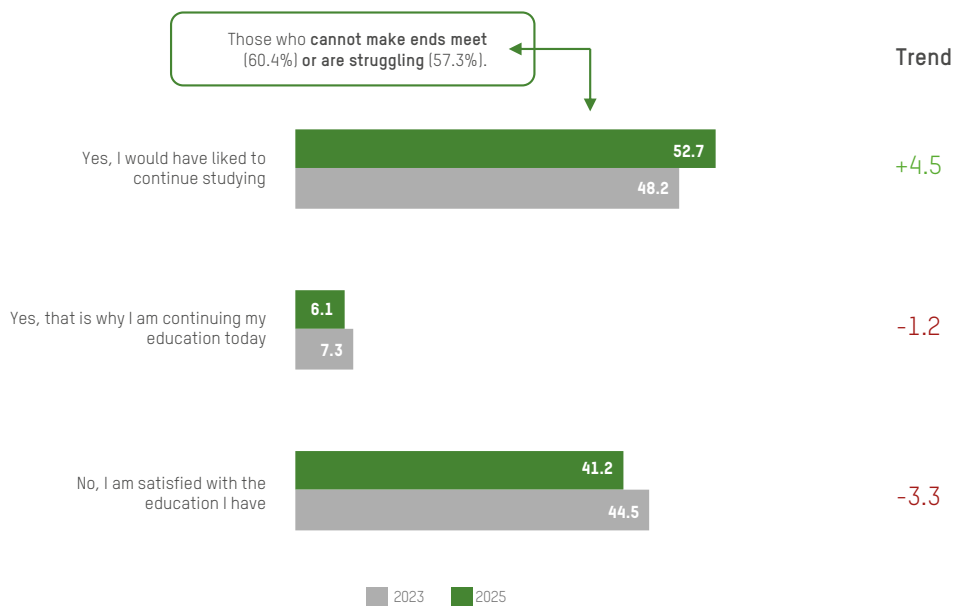
Education is one of the key drivers of inequality. Access to learning plays a major role in whether what we call the ‘social elevator’ or ‘meritocracy’ is a real possibility or just an illusion. Research shows that in recent years, this meritocratic horizon²⁸ has weakened in Spain, undermining one of the pillars of democracy’s social contract, the ‘social elevator’.²⁹

That is why, in the first edition of *Living Inequality*, we focused on lifelong learning as a key factor in improving people’s socioeconomic position. At the time, **nearly half of the respondents, 48.2%, said they wanted to keep studying, but the need to work, at 34.6%, and the cost of education, at 28.8%, stood in their way.** In other words, economic inequality had a direct impact on people’s ability to learn.

This year’s data tell the same story, with some changes. **More than half of the respondents, 52.7%, say they would have liked to continue their education, which is 4.5 points higher than in 2023.** Once again, financial reasons are the main barrier. This figure rises to 57.3% among people who cannot make ends meet.

FIGURE 40. EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING

Q19: Would you like to have a higher level of formal education than you currently have? (% of total)



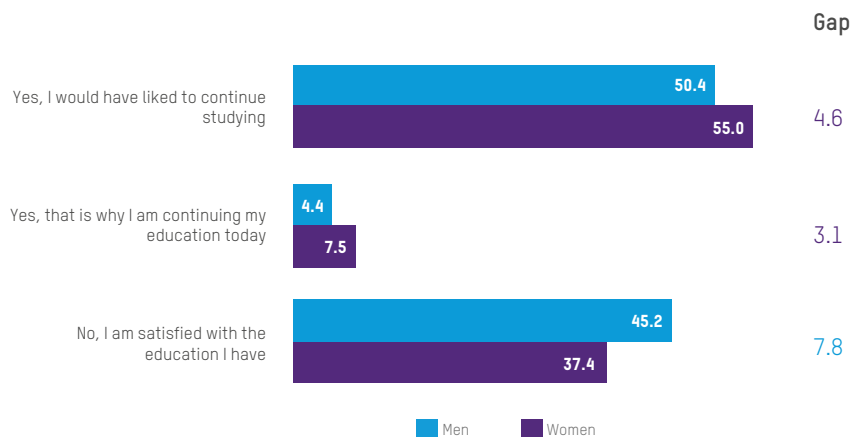
Source: 40dB.

Once again, the intersectional impact is a key factor. **Women are more likely to say they would have liked to continue studying, at 55.8% compared with 50.4% of men.** By age group, **25- to 44-year-olds are the most likely to say they would have liked to keep learning,** probably because this is the stage when people are entering or trying to stabilise their position in the labour market.

The same is true for racialized people, who report greater dissatisfaction with their level of education, with 56.7% saying they would have liked to continue studying compared with 51.4% of non-racialized people. People from lower socioeconomic backgrounds also show higher levels of unmet demand for education, at 56.8% compared with 48.7% among those from higher socioeconomic groups. The following charts show these differences more clearly.

FIGURE 41. EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING, BY GENDER

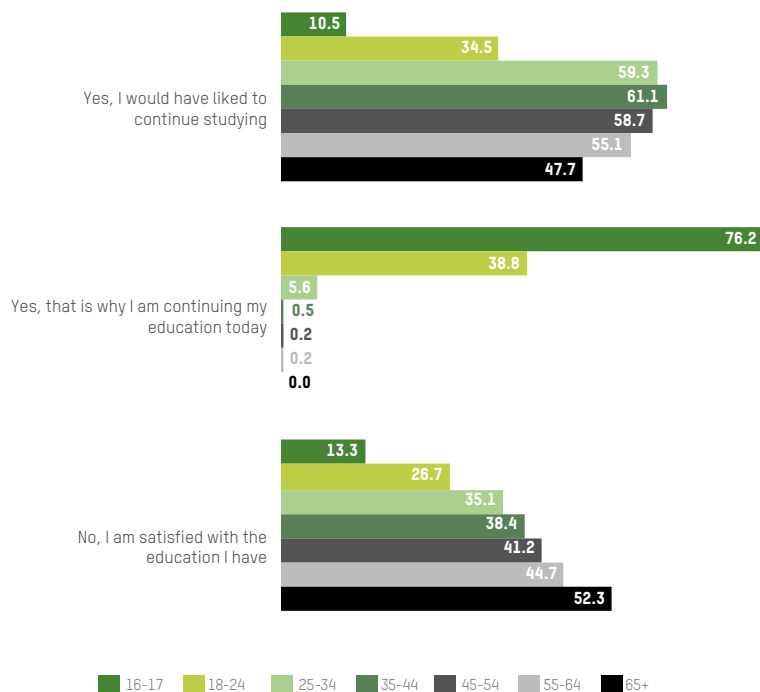
Q19: Would you like to have a higher level of formal education than you currently have? (% by gender)



Source: 40dB.

FIGURE 42. EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING, BY AGE

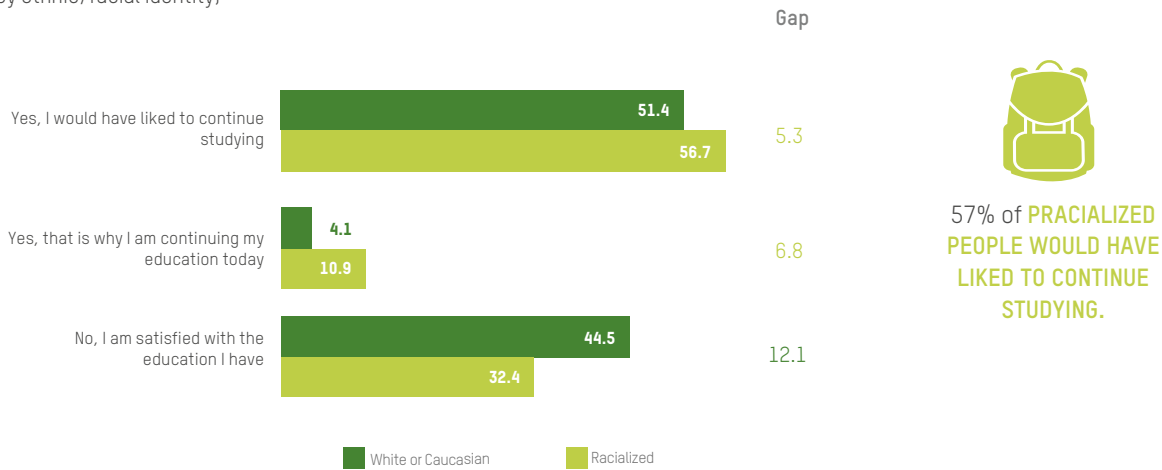
Q19: Would you like to have a higher level of formal education than you currently have? (% by age)



Source: 40dB.

FIGURE 43. EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING, BY ETHNIC OR RACIAL IDENTITY

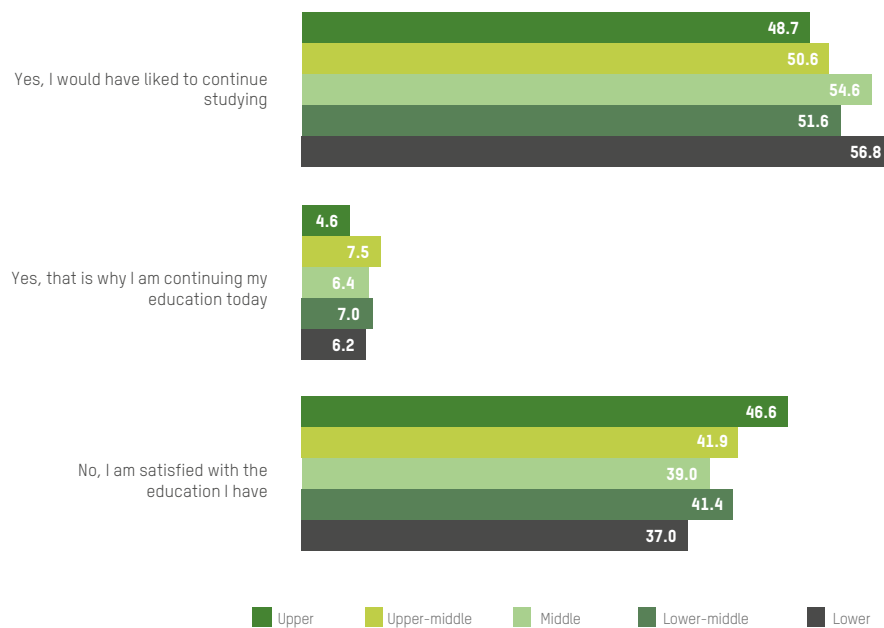
Q19: Would you like to have a higher level of formal education than you currently have? (% by ethnic/racial identity)



Source: 40dB.

FIGURE 44. EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING, BY SOCIOECONOMIC LEVEL

Q19: Would you like to have a higher level of formal education than you currently have? (% by socioeconomic level)

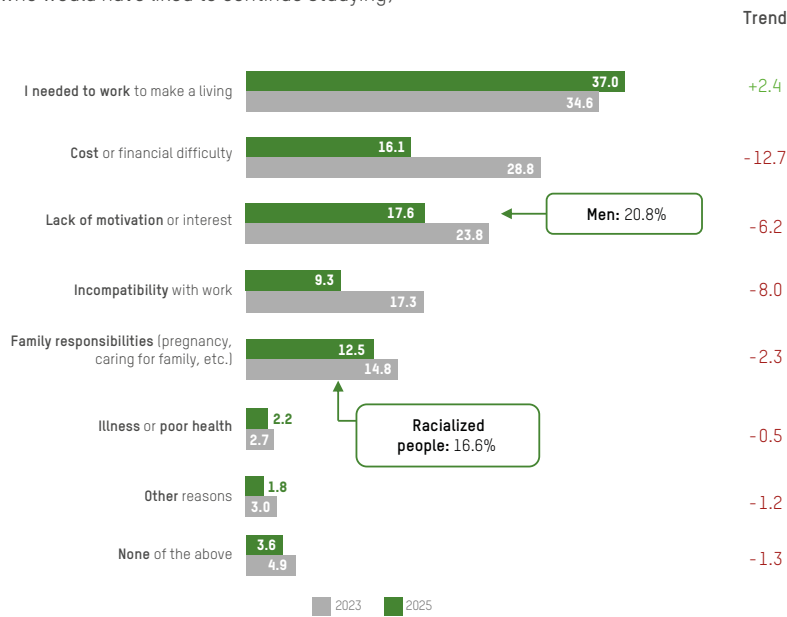


Source: 40dB.

In all of the situations described above, **the need to work and earn an income is the main reason why people drop out of education or are unable to continue their training.** It is striking that this factor has grown slightly between 2023 and 2025, rising by almost 3 points from 34.6% to 37%. On the positive side, **most of the other barriers have eased, especially dropping out of education because of cost,** which has fallen sharply from 28.8% in 2023 to 16.1% in 2025, even if this seems counterintuitive at first glance. There are also encouraging signs, including lower drop-out due to lack of motivation (which is higher among men), family responsibilities (which affect racialized people more) and incompatibility with work, as shown in the following chart.

FIGURE 45. EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING: REASONS FOR DROPPING OUT

Q20: What was the main reason you stopped studying?
 (% of those who would have liked to continue studying)



The share of people who **DROP OUT OF EDUCATION FOR ECONOMIC REASONS HAS RISEN COMPARED WITH 2023.**

Source: 40dB.

Below is a summary of the main intersectional patterns in this chapter:

| | JOB SATISFACTION AND ECONOMIC WELL-BEING | EVERYDAY SACRIFICES | HEALTH | LIFELONG LEARNING |
|--------------|---|---|---|---|
| WOMEN | <p>Income: 32.7% of women say their current income does not allow them to live with dignity, compared with 26.6% of men.</p> <p>Working life: Women are less satisfied with their jobs than men, at 66.7% vs. 73.2%, and feel they have less time for themselves, for work-life balance, and for care responsibilities.</p> <p>41.3% of women say they need a second job for financial reasons, even though they cannot take one, compared with 33.7% of men.</p> | <p>Economic strain is harder on women.</p> <p>Two in three women buy discounted products.</p> <p>More than 60% cut back on leisure and culture.</p> <p>Cuts in clothing and footwear affect 62.4% of women compared with 49.4% of men.</p> <p>47.9% of women cannot afford to take at least one week's holiday a year, at 47.9% vs. 38.9%.</p> <p>43.6% of women do not have enough money to cover unexpected expenses > €600: 43.6% vs. 36.1%.</p> | <p>Greater health care sacrifices.</p> <p>Women are more likely to skip going to the dentist. 23.8% vs. 18%.</p> <p>16.6% of women go without physiotherapy or rehabilitation, vs. 8.6%.</p> <p>12.1% of women cannot afford specialised psychological treatment, at 12.1% vs. 7.6% of men</p> | <p>55.8% of women say they would have liked to continue studying, compared with 50.4% of men.</p> |

| | JOB SATISFACTION AND ECONOMIC WELL-BEING | EVERYDAY SACRIFICES | HEALTH | LIFELONG LEARNING |
|-------------------------|---|---|---|--|
| RACIALIZED PEOPLE | <p>Income: 37.6% of racialized people say their current income does not allow them to live with dignity, compared with 26.9% of the rest of the population.</p> <p>Working life: Racialized people are more likely to have to juggle multiple jobs, at 24.7% compared with 18.2% of the rest of the sample.</p> | <p>Sacrifices in food purchases: 49% have bought less meat, fish, and fresh fruit and vegetables, compared with 36.7% of non-racialized people.</p> <p>Sacrifices in education (school supplies, school meals and extracurricular activities) 31.6% vs. 20.7%.</p> <p>Delay or postpone payments and loans: 37.3% vs. 27.2%.</p> <p>Seek help from family members or institutions: 31% vs. 18.7%. Request salary advances: 27.4% vs. 14.7%.</p> | <p>Greater sacrifices in health care, particularly in dental care, including dental prostheses, and in glasses and hearing aids.</p> | <p>Higher levels of dissatisfaction in education and learning: 56.7% would have liked to continue studying, compared with 51.4% of non-racialized people, but were unable to do so for financial reasons.</p> |
| LOW SOCIOECONOMIC LEVEL | <p>Income: They rate their income as insufficient to live with dignity, with an average score of 4.3 out of 10, compared with 6.4 out of 10 among people on higher incomes.</p> <p>Working life: Job satisfaction: 77.9% of people in higher socioeconomic groups are very satisfied with their jobs, compared with 48.5% among those in the lowest strata.</p> | <p>Greater sacrifices in leisure activities and clothing.</p> <p>Unexpected expenses: almost half, 49.3%, do not have enough money to cover costs over €600, compared with 34.2% among people on middle-to-high incomes.</p> <p>Holidays: 55% cannot afford to take at least one week's holiday a year, almost 20 points more than those on middle-to-high incomes, at 37.8%.</p> | <p>Rate physical health substantially worse: 21.3% rate it as 'poor', twice that of the sample mean.</p> | <p>Show a greater desire to continue studying (56.8%) compared to higher socioeconomic levels (48.7%), but have been unable to do so because of work or financial reasons.</p> |

YOUNG PEOPLE

Working life: Among **18- to 24-year-olds**, **51.1%** of those in work say their jobs are fulfilling, compared with **59.3%** of 45- to 54-year-olds and **62%** of 55- to 64-year-olds.

25- to 34-year-olds show higher levels of sacrifice than other age groups.

Buy discounted products: **64%** compared with **52.8%** of those aged over 65.

Cut back on leisure and culture: **65.8%** vs. **51.4%**.

Cut back on clothing and footwear: **63%** vs. **56.5%**.

Cannot afford to take at least one week's holiday: **51.7%** vs. **34.7%**. Cannot cover unexpected expenses of > €600: **52.8%** vs. **29.9%**.

People aged over 55 from more affluent backgrounds report higher mental health satisfaction, with an average of **4.1 out of 5**.

16- to 34-year-olds from the middle class report the lowest mental health scores, at **3.5 out of 5**, although the gap is small.

By age group, **25- to 44-year-olds** are the most likely to say they would have liked to continue studying, probably because they are at the stage of entering or stabilising their position in the labour market.



HOUSING AS A DETERMINANT OF INEQUALITY



The housing crisis is affecting the lives of 45% of the population, making it a major source of concern despite five years of economic growth and rising employment.

It has a heavier impact on socially vulnerable groups, with women affected 5 points more than men, and racialized people 17 points more than white people. Young people are hit even harder, at 16 points higher than among those aged 35 to 64 and 40 points higher than among people aged over 65, and especially for tenants, who are affected 40 points more than homeowners.

Access to home ownership has become a major driver of inequality, with 23% of adults renting, 67% owning a home, and one in four owners holding two or more properties.

Only 14.4% of non-owners feel optimistic about being able to buy a home in the future, while almost 60% see this as unlikely or very unlikely.

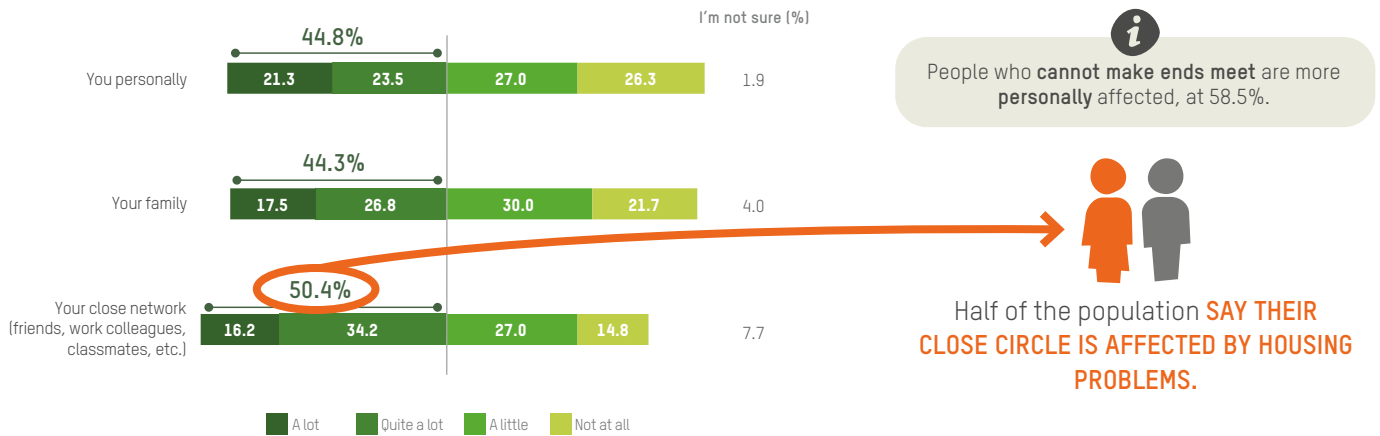
The housing crisis also has serious macroeconomic effects, as the strain on household budgets drags down consumption,³⁰ discourages job creation and weakens productive investment,³¹ because it is currently more profitable to invest in property than in businesses. Yet every economic crisis goes beyond the headline figures and ultimately affects people's lives, especially those who are already vulnerable.

As shown in Chapter 1, **access to housing is one of the biggest sources of distress among people living in Spain**. At the root of this distress is the breakdown of the right to decent and adequate housing, recognised in Article 47 of the Spanish Constitution: **prices have risen by more than 30% in the past five years,³² transforming housing from a right into a source of social crisis**.

Nearly half of the population, 44.8%, say **this price spiral is directly undermining their right to decent housing**. When we also include those whose families, friends, or colleagues are affected, **the share of people touched directly or indirectly by the housing crisis rises to 67.6%.³³**

FIGURE 46. POPULATION AFFECTED BY THE HOUSING CRISIS

Q25: To what extent are you directly affected by the housing problem?
[% of total]



Source: 40dB.

The survey points to **four major gaps** in who is affected by the housing crisis and who is not. The first is gender, as **women are more likely than men to be directly affected**, with 47% saying they are affected a lot or quite a lot compared with 42.3% of men. This highlights unequal access to decent housing.

A second key divide is **ethnicity, with more than half of racialized people saying they are directly affected, at 57.5%**, which is 17 points higher than among white people, at 40.3%.

Age is the third factor, **with the housing crisis affecting 62.7% of young people**, falling to 46.4% among those aged 35 to 64, and to 22.8% among those aged 65 or over.³⁴

The fourth axis of inequality is access to home ownership. In what has long been seen as a 'nation of homeowners',³⁵ as housing has long been understood in Spain, those who **do not own** a home, around **one in three adults**, are the ones hit hardest by the crisis.

Only 33.2% of homeowners say the housing crisis affects them directly, while 65.7% say it affects them little or not at all. This stands in stark contrast to **tenants**, among whom 73.6% say they are directly affected, while only 25.5% say they are not.³⁶

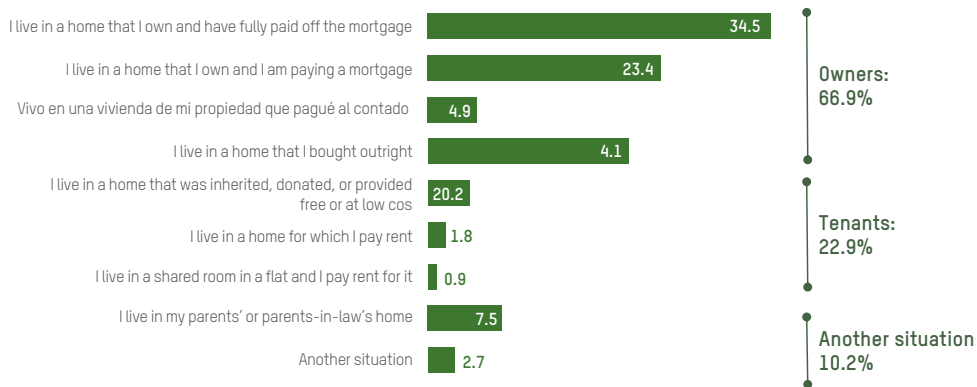
The housing crisis also has a major impact on people who are not yet independent, mostly young people, almost 60% of whom say they are affected, compared with 36.5% who say they are not.³⁷

AN OVERVIEW OF HOUSING TENURE IN SPAIN

People who rent their homes, around 23% of those surveyed, and those who live with their parents or parents-in-law, 7.5% of the adult population, are the most likely to say the housing crisis is directly affecting their lives. Rising rents and the barriers to buying a home are the clearest expressions of how the housing crisis is being felt. Who exactly is included in this group? Who are the people who rent or live with their parents in Spain?

FIGURE 47. HOUSING TENURE IN SPAIN

VIV1: With regard to the home where you usually live for most of the year, which of the following best describes your situation? (% of total)



Source: 40dB.

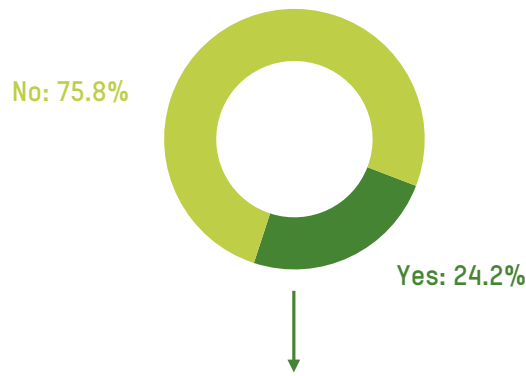
The figures show that **renting is more common among the groups most affected by the housing crisis. Racialized people** are the most affected, with 35.9% living in rented accommodation compared with 19% of the rest of the population. **Young adults** are another key group, as 35% of those aged 18 to 34 rent their homes, compared with 20.7% of the rest of the adult population.

There is also a clear **gender gap**, as 25.5% of **women** live in rented accommodation compared with 20.3% of men. A similar divide is seen by **socioeconomic status**, as renting is more common among people in **lower socioeconomic groups**, at 27%, than among those in **higher groups**, at 20.1%. We also need to consider the 7.5% of people who are not yet independent, 62% of whom are young,³⁸ with 25- to 34-year-olds accounting for one in four of those still living at home.

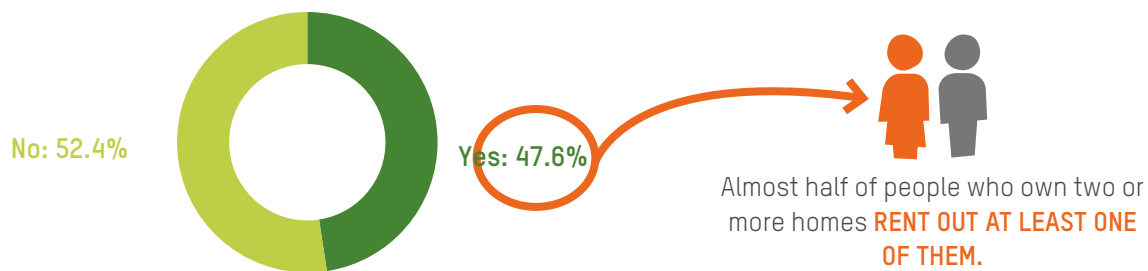
At the other end of the scale, 67% of adults in Spain own at least one home (as per our survey). A quarter of homeowners own more than one property. Put another way, **16.2% of adults own more than one home.**³⁹

FIGURE 48. MULTIPLE PROPERTY OWNERS AND LANDLORDS IN SPAIN

VIV3: In addition to your primary home, do you own another home?
[% of homeowners]



VIV4: You said you own more than one property. Is any of them currently rented out?
[% of homeowners]



Source: 40dB.

47.6% of people who own two or more homes rent out at least one of them, and more than **one in three landlords in Spain rent out two or more properties**, at 38.42%.⁴⁰ This widens the inequality gap around property, as **those who hold the most wealth also receive the most rental income from those with less**. What we see is a net transfer of income from some social groups to others.

The figures show that the housing crisis is not just about ownership, but is also shaped by inequalities of race, age, gender and socioeconomic status, and that alongside the losers there are also winners.

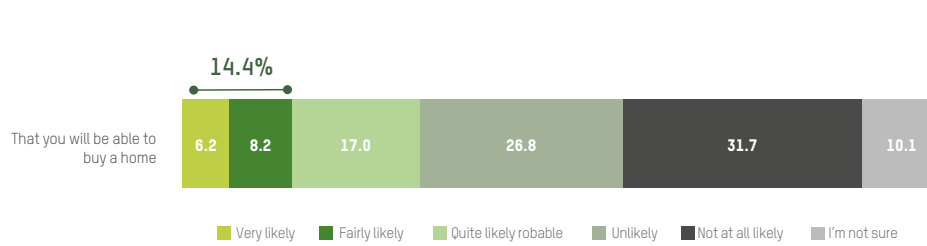
HOME OWNERSHIP: AN UNATTAINABLE SOLUTION

If the crisis falls most heavily on renters, buying a home appears to be the obvious route out. However, mortgage conditions, with only 80% of a property's value financed and a maximum debt-to-income ratio of 35%, combined with the limited ability of many households to save, mean that **home ownership is within reach of only a few**.

As a result, only **14.4% of people who do not own a home are optimistic** about being able to buy one in the future, according to our survey. By contrast, 58.5% say it is unlikely or very unlikely that they will ever be able to buy a home, in line with other studies.⁴¹

FIGURE 49. OPTIMISM ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF BUYING A HOME

Q30: Thinking about the future, how likely do you think the following situation is?
(% of non-homeowners)



i
Among those who **cannot make ends meet**, 43.3% say it is not at all likely.



Only 14.4% consider it is **VERY OR QUITE LIKELY THAT THEY WILL BE ABLE TO BUY A HOME.**

Source: 40dB.

This pessimism is driven in part by the lack of any expectation of family help with a deposit, as **only 11.5% of the tenants surveyed were certain they could receive financial support from their family to buy a home**, while 31.3% said they would receive no help at all.

Optimism and pessimism vary sharply by social class, as **55.1% of tenants from higher socioeconomic backgrounds say their families could help them financially** to buy a home. This optimism falls steadily as socioeconomic status declines, reaching a low among those on low incomes, where only 24.9% think they could receive family support, compared with **75.1% who say it is unlikely or very unlikely.**⁴²

The class gap is even wider among young people. **Among young people from higher socioeconomic backgrounds, 72.1% say it is likely or very likely that they will receive some form of help.** At the other end of the scale, **60.4% of young people from low socioeconomic backgrounds say it is unlikely or very unlikely that their families will be able to help** them buy a home.

Growing inequality in access to housing is also a reflection of inherited inequality. When the right to housing is left to the market, only those with family wealth have a real chance of securing it. The survey data therefore show that the housing crisis is not simply a generational issue, but one that mainly affects young people from low and middle-socioeconomic backgrounds and young migrants, rather than all young people as a whole.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR MY RENT GOING UP?

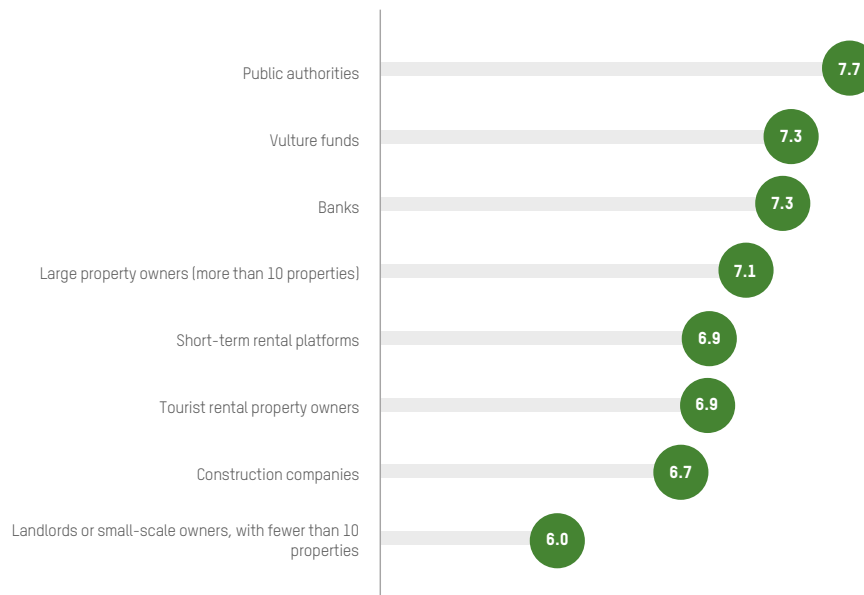
When people are asked who they think is responsible for the current housing price crisis, they point above all to the **inaction of public authorities and the power of financial capital. Public authorities are seen as the main actors responsible**, with a score of 7.7 out of 10, **followed by vulture funds and banks**, both at 7.3.

Seeing public authorities as the main culprits reflects a shared sense that **public policy in this area is insufficient.** The data point to a broad consensus that access to housing should not be left to the market alone, and that **governments have tools they are not using.**

Vulture funds and banks are also seen as major contributors to the housing problem. Along the same lines, **large property owners** are ranked fourth.

FIGURE 56. DEGREE OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE HOUSING PROBLEM

Q38: In relation to the housing problem, how much responsibility would you assign to each of the following actors? Rate on a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 means 'Not at all responsible' and 10 means 'Very responsible' (Overall average)

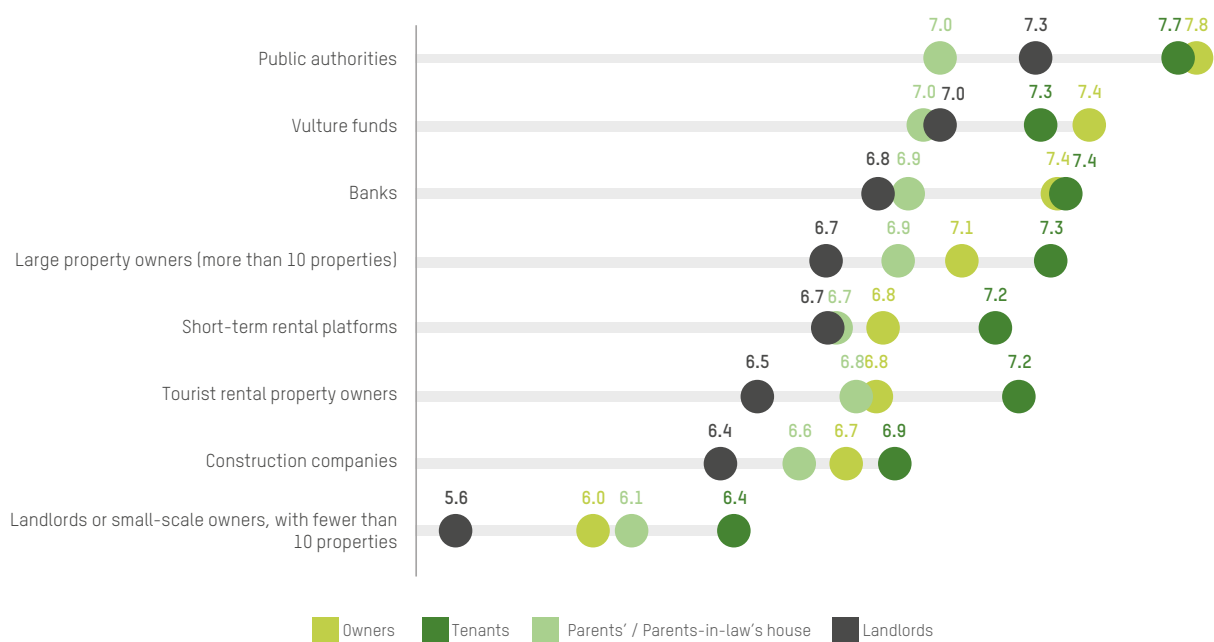


Source: 40dB.

There are slight differences between tenants and landlords in how they assign responsibility for the housing problem. Although the ranking of responsibility is almost the same, tenants tend to place higher levels of responsibility on all the actors involved in the housing market. This is especially true for **short-term rental platforms**, at 7.2 compared with 6.7, **tourist rental property owners**, at 7.2 compared with 6.5, and **landlords or small-scale owners**, at 6.4 compared with 5.6.

FIGURE 57. DEGREE OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE HOUSING PROBLEM, BY HOUSING TENURE

Q38: In relation to the housing problem, how much responsibility would you assign to each of the following actors? Rate on a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 means 'Not at all responsible' and 10 means 'Very responsible' (Average by housing tenure)



Source: 40dB.

Below is a summary of the key intersectional findings on housing:

| GROUP | IMPACT OF THE HOUSING CRISIS | HOUSING TENURE | HOME PURCHASE |
|--------------------------|---|--|---|
| WOMEN | 47% of women say they have been affected by the housing crisis, vs 42.3% of men. | Women are more likely to live in rented accommodation (25.5%) than men (20.3%), highlighting a gender gap in access to home ownership. | No statistically significant differences are detected in the survey. |
| YOUNG PEOPLE | Young people are the group most likely to report being affected by the housing crisis, at 62.7% , with this figure falling to 22.8% among those aged over 65. | Renting is the most common housing option among young people, with 35% renting, compared with 20.7% among older adults. | There are also clear socioeconomic differences: 72.1% of young people from higher socioeconomic backgrounds believe they will receive family support to buy a home, while 60.4% of those from lower socioeconomic backgrounds consider this unlikely. |
| RACIALIZED PEOPLE | Racialized people are more affected: 57.5% compared with 40.3% of the rest of the population. | 36% of racialized people live in rented accommodation, almost double the share among people who self-identify as white, at 19% . | No statistically significant differences are detected in the survey. |
| TENANTS | 3 in 4 tenants are directly affected by the housing crisis, compared with 1 in 3 homeowners. | 23% of those surveyed are tenants (a minority compared with 67% who are homeowners); 16.2% of the adult population owns two or more homes. | Only 11.5% of tenants consider it very likely that they will receive family support to buy a home; 31.3% consider it unlikely that they will receive family support to buy a home. |



PUBLIC VIEWS OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR INEQUALITIES



Four in 10 people believe that public administrations and their policies are the main actors responsible for the existence or persistence of inequality, followed by political parties and large companies.

53.2% of respondents see the Spanish Government as a highly capable actor in the fight against inequality, ranking it above institutions such as the European Union.

Levels of trust in these actors vary by gender and age, with women across all age groups expressing greater optimism about the capacity of different stakeholders to confront inequality.

Having explored the different forms of inequality identified in previous chapters, this section turns to who the public sees as responsible, whether through action or inaction.

Four in ten people believe that public administrations and their policies are the main actors responsible for the existence or persistence of inequality, followed by political parties and large companies. Specifically, 39.4% of the population believes that the actions or omissions of public administrations and their policies are the leading cause of inequality, either because they perpetuate imbalances or fail to intervene where intervention is most needed.

Political parties come second, identified by 29.7% of the population as the main actors responsible for inequality. This perception is particularly strong among **young people aged 18 to 34**, where the figure stands at 37.6%, eight percentage points above the overall average.

This may reflect a climate of **political disaffection and mistrust**, especially among younger generations, who see political parties as poorly equipped to respond to widening social divides.⁴³

Companies also feature prominently, with **13.7% of respondents identifying them as key actors in the reproduction of inequality**.

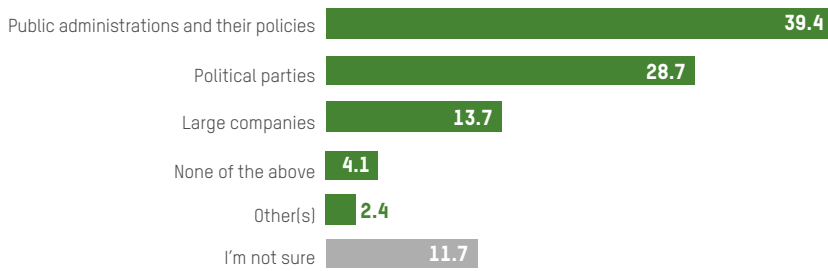
Finally, **11.7% of the population say they do not know** or are unsure who is mainly responsible for inequality. This uncertainty is **significantly higher among women**, at 15.6%, compared with 7.7% of men, an **eight-point gap**.

It is also more prevalent among **younger people, especially those aged 18 to 24**, where it reaches 20.1%, double the overall average.

This **difficulty in assigning responsibility** may stem from the complex nature of inequality, **which cannot always be explained in linear terms or attributed to a single actor**, or from the dominant interpretative frameworks, which are not always close enough to people’s experiences or sufficient to express what they have lived through. Among women and young people, this indecision may signal both a heightened awareness of the **multiple factors shaping inequality** and a **lack of clear reference points or information** to identify responsibility directly.

FIGURE 58. PRIMARY ACTORS RESPONSIBLE FOR INEQUALITY

Q3: Who do you think is or are the main causes of inequality? Select the one you consider most relevant. (% of total)



i
Men aged 35 to 44, white or Caucasian men, and people aged 35 to 54 from upper or upper-middle socioeconomic groups are more likely to assign responsibility to large companies.

Source: 40dB.

Looking at the other side of the coin and shifting the focus from responsibility to **who has real capacity to act against inequality in Spain**, expectations for change begin to emerge. **A large share of the population believes that there are actors with genuine capacity to reverse inequality.** In fact, **6 in 10 people consider that inequality can be eradicated**, a proportion similar to that recorded in 2023.

FIGURE 59. PUBLIC VIEWS THAT INEQUALITY CAN BE ERADICATED

Q7: To what extent do you identify with the following statement? Rate on a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 means 'I do not identify at all' and 10 means 'I fully identify'. (% of total)

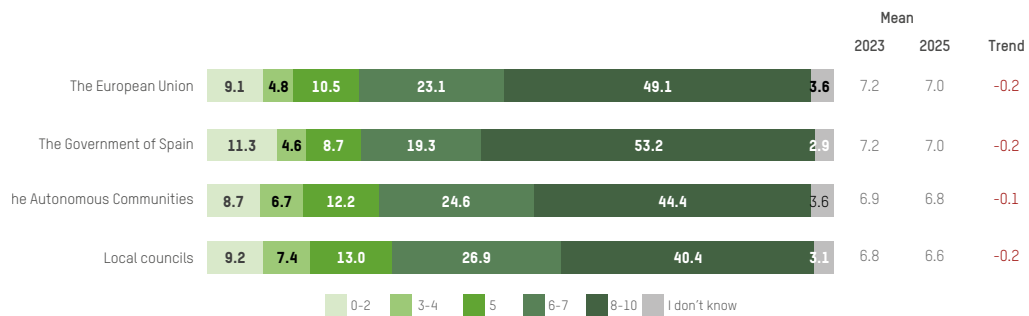


Source: 40dB.

Citizens point first to the **Government of Spain**, which **53.2%** of the population considers to be **very capable of tackling inequality**, with an average score of 7 out of 10. It is followed by the **European Union**, with **49.1%** support in this regard, also with an average score of 7 out of 10. A second tier includes **administrations closest to citizens**, such as the **Autonomous Communities**, with **44.4%** support and an average rating of 6.8, and **local councils**, which receive **40.4%** support and a mean score of 6.6 out of 10.

FIGURE 60. INSTITUTIONS WITH CAPACITY TO FIGHT INEQUALITY IN SPAIN

Q8: To what extent do you think the following institutions have the capacity to fight inequality in Spain? Rate on a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 means 'No capacity' and 10 means 'Full capacity'.
[% and mean score for the total sample]

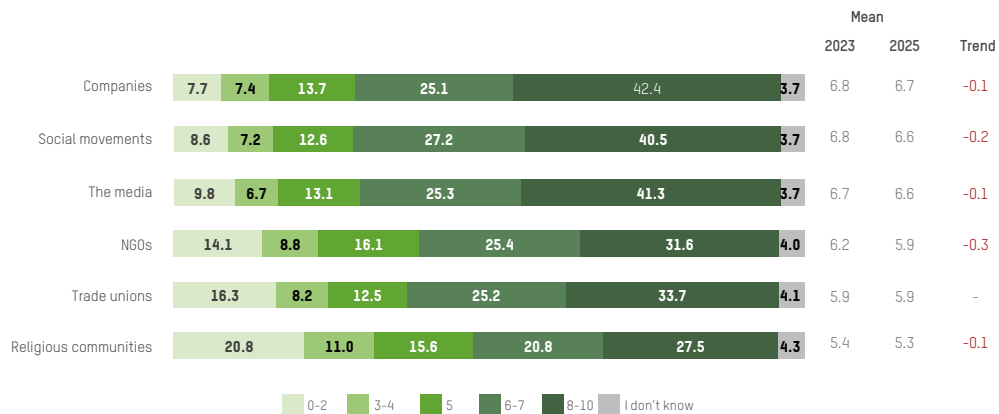


Source: 40dB.

Beyond the institutional sphere, citizens also point to other actors as having the capacity to help reduce inequality. These actors include **companies** (6.7 out of 10), **social movements** (6.6 out of 10), **the media** (6.6 out of 10), **NGOs** (5.9 out of 10), **trade unions** (5.9 out of 10), and **religious communities** (5.3 out of 10). While they receive less backing overall, these actors continue to feature in the public's shared perception as playing a meaningful role in tackling inequality, with almost no change from their 2023 scores.

FIGURE 61. OTHER INSTITUTIONS WITH CAPACITY TO FIGHT INEQUALITY IN SPAIN

Q8: To what extent do you think the following institutions have the capacity to fight inequality in Spain? Rate on a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 means 'No capacity' and 10 means 'Full capacity'.
[% and mean score for the total sample]



Source: 40dB.

These findings, which show little change compared with 2023, appear to reflect a **dual expectation**: on the one hand, a strong **demand for action from central government and supranational institutions**; on the other, **recognition of the role that territorial levels of government can play**, albeit to a lesser extent.

At the same time, this perception may also signal a **certain degree of optimism**, insofar as actors are identified as having real capacity to reverse inequalities, suggesting that inequality is not seen as inevitable but as a problem that can be addressed through political will and appropriate institutional action.

Levels of trust in the different actors vary by gender and age. Overall, the **highest levels of optimism** about the ability of different actors to fight inequality are observed among **women**.

From a generational perspective, the **greatest optimism** is found among **people aged 25 to 44**. By contrast, **older men**, particularly those aged 55 to 64, are the most negative in their assessment of the capacity of both different levels of government and social and institutional actors to confront inequality.

FIGURE 62. INSTITUTIONS WITH CAPACITY TO FIGHT INEQUALITY IN SPAIN, BY GENDER AND AGE

Q8: To what extent do you think the following institutions have the capacity to fight inequality in Spain? Rate on a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 means 'No capacity' and 10 means 'Full capacity'. (Mean by age and gender)

| | Women 16-24 years | Men 16-24 years | Women 25-34 years | Men 25-34 years | Women 35-44 years | Men 35-44 years | Women 45-54 years | Men 45-54 years | Women 55-64 years | Men 55-64 years | Women 65+ years | Men 65+ years |
|----------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| The European Union | 7.3 | 6.8 | 7.1 | 6.6 | 7.3 | 6.8 | 7.5 | 6.7 | 7.3 | 6.5 | 7.1 | 6.8 |
| The Government of Spain | 7.4 | 7.3 | 7.4 | 7.1 | 7.4 | 6.8 | 7.6 | 6.8 | 7.1 | 6.4 | 6.8 | 6.6 |
| The Autonomous Communities | 6.3 | 6.1 | 7.1 | 7.1 | 7.2 | 6.6 | 7.3 | 6.4 | 7.3 | 6.3 | 6.7 | 6.6 |
| Local councils | 6.5 | 6.3 | 6.9 | 6.6 | 6.9 | 6.4 | 7.1 | 6.1 | 7.0 | 6.1 | 6.5 | 6.3 |
| Companies | 6.7 | 5.9 | 7.0 | 6.7 | 7.0 | 6.8 | 7.1 | 6.6 | 6.9 | 6.3 | 6.8 | 6.3 |
| Social movements | 7.0 | 6.7 | 7.1 | 6.8 | 6.9 | 6.6 | 6.9 | 6.1 | 7.1 | 5.9 | 6.7 | 6.3 |
| The media | 6.8 | 6.5 | 6.9 | 6.7 | 7.1 | 6.6 | 7.1 | 6.3 | 6.9 | 6.0 | 6.4 | 6.1 |
| NGOs | 6.3 | 6.0 | 6.4 | 6.2 | 6.5 | 5.9 | 6.0 | 5.6 | 6.2 | 5.1 | 6.1 | 5.6 |
| Trade unions | 6.6 | 6.7 | 6.7 | 6.5 | 6.8 | 5.8 | 6.3 | 5.4 | 6.3 | 4.8 | 5.7 | 5.1 |
| Religious communities | 5.8 | 5.8 | 5.9 | 6.4 | 5.7 | 5.5 | 5.1 | 4.9 | 5.2 | 4.9 | 5.0 | 5.1 |



The highest levels of optimism about the ability of different actors to **FIGHT INEQUALITY** ARE GENERALLY OBSERVED AMONG WOMEN AGED 45 TO 54.

Source: 40dB.

We conclude with a summary of the main intersectional patterns identified in this chapter.

| GROUP | RESPONSIBILITY FOR INEQUALITIES | OPTIMISM ABOUT THE POTENTIAL FOR CHANGE |
|---------------------|--|---|
| WOMEN | Women find it harder than men to attribute responsibility: 15.6% of women say they do not know or do not wish to assign responsibility to any actor, compared with 7.7% of men. | Women consistently rate the ability of political and social actors to fight inequality more highly than men across every age group. For instance, women give the European Union a score of 7.3, compared with 6.7 among men. |
| YOUNG PEOPLE | 37.6% of young people (18 to 34) attribute responsibility for inequality to political parties, 8 percentage points above the average. In addition, 20.1% of people aged 18 to 24 struggle to identify any responsible actor, a figure that is double the average across all age groups. | Older people, particularly men aged 55–64, are the least confident, with average ratings for governments and social actors barely reaching 5. |

LEVERS FOR CHANGE: PUBLIC VIEWS OF FIGHTING INEQUALITY



When considering possible measures to fight inequality and reduce social gaps, respondents identify several priority areas among the options presented.

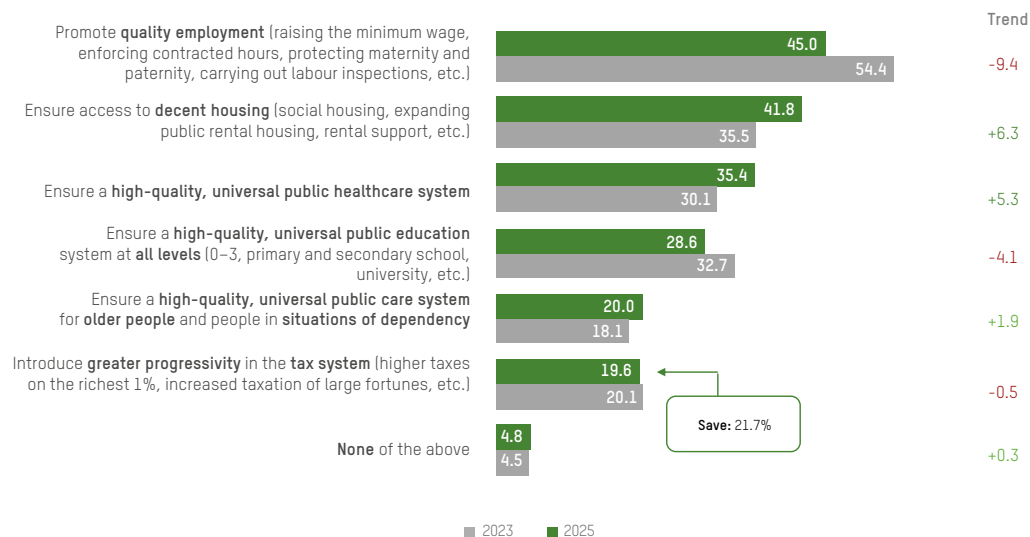
EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS

Despite a drop of 9.4 points compared with 2023, almost half of the population (45%) still see key measures as including raising the minimum wage, ensuring strict compliance with contracted working hours, preventing the abuse of unpaid overtime or full-time work disguised as part-time contracts, strengthening effective protection for maternity and paternity, and increasing the inspection capacity of labour authorities to enforce workers' rights.

This package of measures receives particularly strong support from women, people under 34, and racialized people. These groups are the most affected by low wages, part-time contracts, and job insecurity, a situation that is even more critical for those with irregular migration status.⁴⁴

FIGURE 63. MOST USEFUL MEASURES TO FIGHT INEQUALITY

Q14: Which two measures do you think are most useful for fighting inequality? (% of total)



Since 2023, **DECENT HOUSING AND PUBLIC HEALTHCARE HAVE BEEN THE POLICY AREAS THAT HAVE GAINED THE MOST PRIORITY**, with increases of 6 and 5 points respectively.

Source: 40dB.

HEALTH CARE, EDUCATION AND THE CARE SYSTEM

Public, universal healthcare and education remain in **third and fourth place**, respectively, as strategic measures to fight inequality. This reflects a widespread recognition of these policies as drivers of social cohesion, with the capacity to level opportunities and reduce gaps between those with greater and lesser means.

Over time, the priority given to improving public education has declined by 4.1 percentage points since 2023, while **calls to reinforce public healthcare have increased by 5.3 points**. This shift reflects a dual reality: on the one hand, public recognition of universal public healthcare as a cornerstone of the welfare state; on the other, the perception that the healthcare system needs to be strengthened.

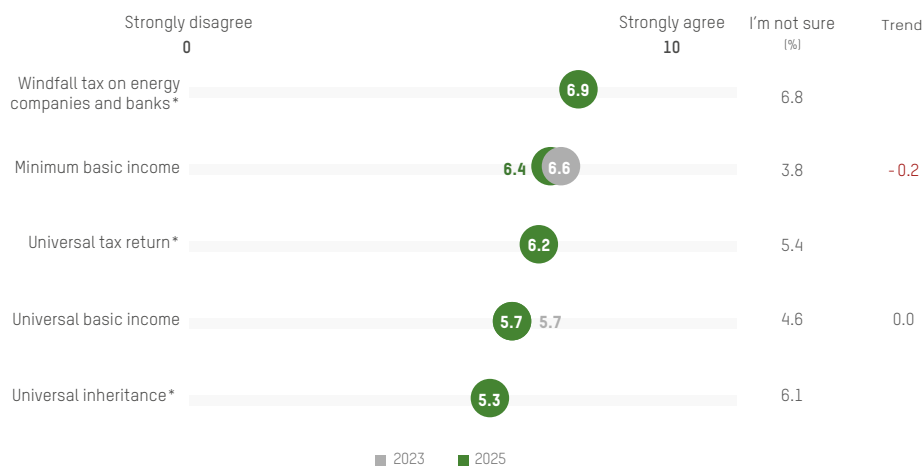
There has also been a slight increase in the importance placed on ensuring a high-quality, universal public care system for older people and people with care needs. Specifically, **two in ten people identify it as one of their main public policy priorities**, particularly among those aged 25 to 34 and those aged over 55.

SOCIAL PROTECTION

In the area of social protection, the most strongly supported measure is the **Minimum Basic Income**, which receives an average score of 6.4 on a scale from 1 to 10. People under 34 are the most supportive of a universal inheritance and a universal basic income.⁴⁵

FIGURE 64. PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR MEASURES TO FIGHT INEQUALITY

Q13: Thinking about Spain, how far do you agree with the following public policies aimed at fighting inequality? Rate on a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 means 'Strongly disagree' and 10 means 'Strongly agree'. (Overall average)



People under 34 are the most supportive **OF A UNIVERSAL INHERITANCE AND A UNIVERSAL BASIC INCOME.**

*Data available for the 2025 edition only

Source: 40dB.

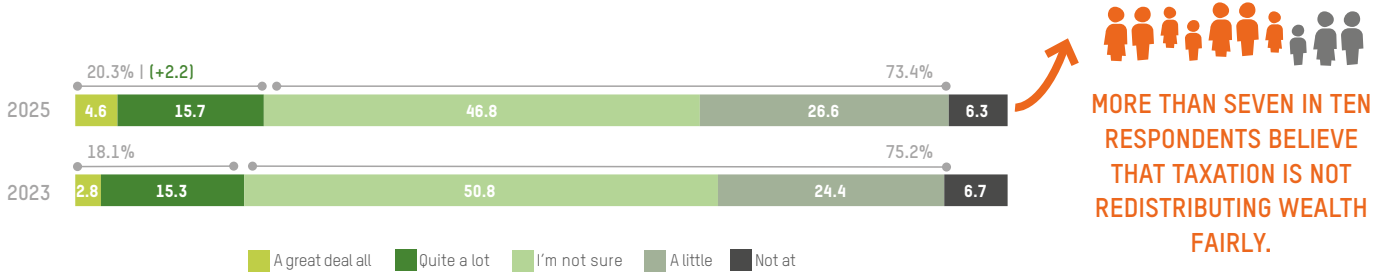
Taken together, support for universal measures consistently scores above an average of 5, suggesting that, in public discourse, it is no longer seen as sufficient to focus solely on assisting those below the poverty line or in situations of extreme vulnerability. There is a growing **collective interest in developing inclusive, automatic and universal mechanisms that guarantee a minimum level of rights – and income security – for the entire population.** Future editions of this survey will need to examine whether this trend becomes consolidated.

TAXATION

Support for **windfall taxes on major energy companies and banks** is widespread across almost all groups, with average backing close to 7 out of 10. In this context, the survey reveals a widespread perception that the current tax system is neither progressive enough nor fair. While most people acknowledge that taxes are essential to sustain public services, with an average score of 7 out of 10, **73.4% believe that the Spanish tax system does not distribute wealth equitably.**

FIGURE 65. THE CAPACITY OF TAXES TO REDISTRIBUTE WEALTH

Q11: One of the functions of taxes is to redistribute a country's wealth. To what extent do you think our tax system redistributes wealth? (% of total)



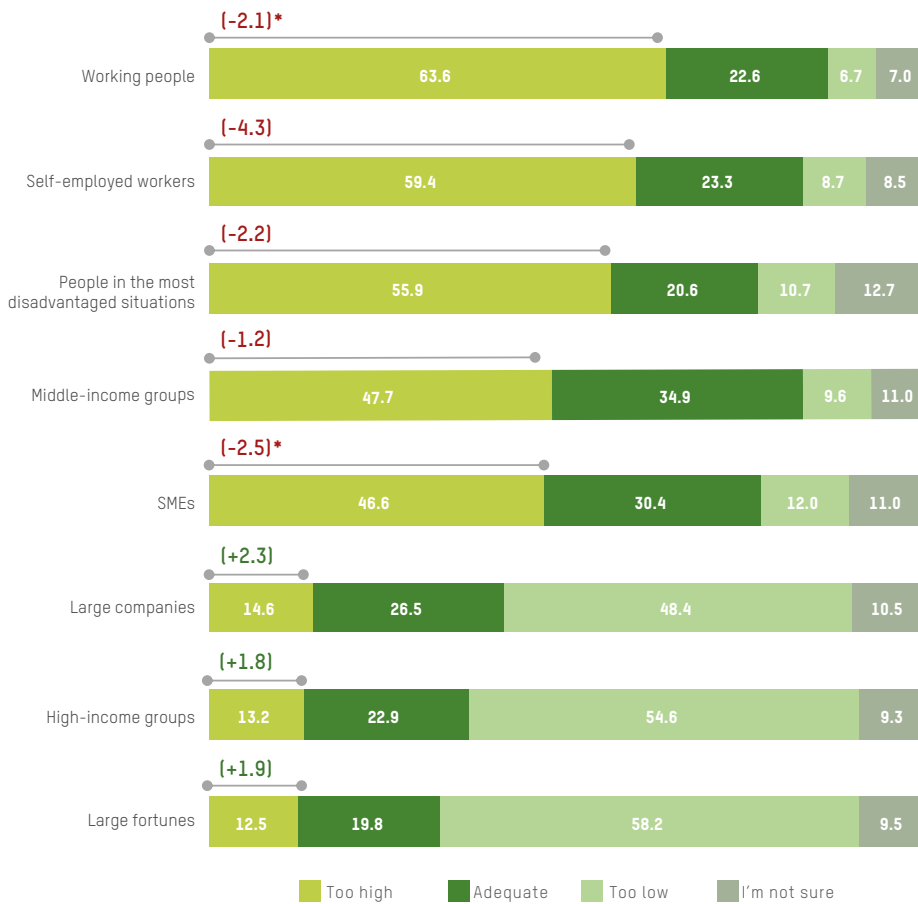
i People aged 25 to 34 (27.2%), those who **save** (25.3%), **racialized people** (23.7%) and **LGBTQI+** people (25.2%) are more inclined to think that the tax system redistributes wealth to a **significant or moderate degree**. In all cases, however, those who believe that the Spanish tax system does not redistribute wealth effectively remain the majority.

Source: 40dB.

63% of respondents feel that working people are overtaxed, a view that is similarly shared about self-employed workers. Over half of the population (55.9%) believes that people in more vulnerable situations are also subject to an overly heavy tax burden. SMEs are likewise perceived as carrying a disproportionate tax burden, with 46.6% identifying them as one of the most heavily taxed groups. By contrast, **almost six in ten believe that large fortunes do not contribute enough**, and half share this view with regard to the upper classes and large corporations.

FIGURE 66. ASSESSMENT OF THE TAX BURDEN BY SOCIAL GROUP

Q12: Would you say that, in our country, the taxes paid by the following groups are...?
[% of total]



More than six in ten people
**THINK THAT LARGE FORTUNES
PAY TOO LITTLE TAX.**

Source: 40dB.

These findings reinforce a key idea: **the public appears to support a fairer and more equitable tax system that not only funds rights but also actively contributes to reducing inequality.** Moving towards a progressive and well-designed tax system in which those with more contribute more appears essential to rebalancing the distribution of economic power and strengthening social cohesion.

HOUSING

As a result of the current housing price crisis, **41.8% of respondents place housing at the centre of the fight against inequality.** This figure is 6.3 percentage points higher than in 2023 and represents the largest increase across all the areas examined. The findings clearly illustrate that, as housing prices have risen, **housing has increasingly come to be seen in public discourse as a strategic policy lever for reversing inequality.**

Given the sharp growth in both public concern and demands for political intervention and public management in this area, it is important to highlight how people view specific proposals to tackle the housing crisis. Three proposals in particular receive support from over 70% of respondents and are therefore especially significant.

- **Expansion of public housing.** An overwhelming majority (74.8%) believe that public administrations should address the crisis by creating a large supply of public, social and affordable housing. This is the most strongly supported proposal across all age groups and is also the most widely backed measure regardless of housing tenure (landlords: 72.7%, tenants: 76.2%, homeowners: 76.8%, and people who have not yet left the parental home: 64.1%), reflecting a broad degree of consensus on this issue.

- **Rehabilitating empty homes for rental use.** The second most supported measure is the renovation of vacant properties to bring them into the rental market, backed by 72.4% of respondents, although support varies notably by age. While it attracts less support among younger people, it is one of the most strongly backed proposals among older age groups, suggesting a generational dimension linked to property ownership.
- **Regulation of tourist and short-term rentals.** The third most supported measure (71%) concerns curbing the spread of tourist and short-term rental properties. Support for this measure is broadly shared across age groups, but differs by tenure, with high support among owners and tenants (73.3%) and notably lower support among landlords. Among those who earn income from renting property, support for tackling short-term or seasonal rentals stands at just 59.3%.



OXFAM INTERMÓN'S PROPOSALS



Inequality is a violation of human dignity that stems, among other factors, from political decisions. Throughout this report, we have sought to understand the main social narratives around inequality from a multidimensional and intersectional perspective, while also listening to the public to identify which measures they see as most effective for fighting against it.

As a result of this analysis, and of Oxfam Intermón's broader research and advocacy work in Spain, we set out below a summary of some of the proposals we have been promoting since 2023. These proposals are also the outcome of a process of active listening with a range of social groups.

We believe these proposals remain relevant if we consider that, as we have shown throughout the report, many perceptions of inequality have remained stable over the past two years, particularly affecting young people, women, migrants and/or racialized people, and households with low-income levels.

DECENT, QUALITY EMPLOYMENT

The first area where decisive action must be taken is the field of **quality employment**. To this end, we consider it essential to approve the reform of the Workers' Statute, which would transpose Directive (EU) 2019/1152 on transparent and predictable working conditions in the European Union⁴⁶ and would **improve labour rights for workers on part-time contracts**, as well as to initiate the transposition of Directive (EU) 2022/2041 on adequate minimum wages in the European Union,⁴⁷ which would legally safeguard the **statutory minimum wage** and its uprating in law. Spain has currently failed to meet the transposition deadline for both pieces of legislation and is therefore exposed to sanctions from the European Union.

In addition, **active employment policies** must be reformed, particularly with regard to in-work training, to reskill workers with only primary education, who face an in-work poverty rate of 20% (according to Oxfam Intermón data),⁴⁸ five times higher than that of those with higher vocational or university education.

In the case of young people, reducing unemployment and improving overall job quality is essential to support their transition into adult life. In this respect, in addition to the measures already mentioned, it is urgent to approve the **Statute on Non-Labour Internships**, or **Intern Statute**, to establish common and decent minimum conditions for all curricular placements. While such placements are essential for the training and labour market integration of thousands of young people in Spain, they frequently mask actual jobs that lack proper supervision and fair pay.

PUBLIC, UNIVERSAL EDUCATION, HEALTH CARE AND SOCIAL PROTECTION

Similarly, we see the need to **further reinforce public education and healthcare systems**, adopting an approach grounded in universality and equality of opportunity. Education and healthcare are core pillars of the welfare state and must ensure effective access, while addressing structural barriers linked to economic circumstances, gender, age or ethnicity.

Furthermore, to strengthen the redistributive role of the state and fight poverty, **social protection policy** must go beyond a purely contributory model, by designing a simpler, more streamlined, preventive and universal system that reaches all people who are vulnerable or at risk of vulnerability, regardless of their employment history, gender, age, origin or administrative status. In this regard, the first step would be to significantly improve the design, coverage and effectiveness of the **minimum living income**.

COMPREHENSIVE CARE SYSTEM AND REFORM OF THE DEPENDENCY ACT

Gender inequality encounters one of its main obstacles in the **care model**, making it essential to move towards a **comprehensive public care system** based on recognition of the right to care and on guaranteed rights for those who provide care. At the same time, the **System for Autonomy and Care for Dependency must be strengthened** through adequate funding that ensures its sustainability and delivers decent employment conditions. It is likewise essential to continue advancing towards real equality in labour and social security rights for domestic and care workers compared with those of other employees. Achieving this requires the **comprehensive and effective transposition of International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention 189**, as well as ensuring the enforcement of rights that have already been recognised.

A RIGHTS-BASED MIGRATION POLICY

With respect to migrants, closing the gap that separates them from the rest of the population requires, first and foremost, **the promotion of a migration policy with a rights-based approach and a firm commitment to anti-racism**. This would involve, among other steps, **the extraordinary regularisation of more than 500,000 people living in an irregular administrative situation in our country**. This measure, promoted through a Popular Legislative Initiative, must be approved by the Congress of Deputies without further delay.

The **limitations of the new Immigration Regulation must likewise be addressed**, placing respect for human rights at the centre and moving beyond a utilitarian and market-driven view of migration. It is also **essential that municipalities guarantee the right to municipal registration** for all people.

All these measures should be embedded within a wider framework that fosters real legal and safe routes for migrants and **puts an end to the outsourcing of border management**. Given that the approval of the **European Pact on Migration and Asylum** represents a strengthening of policies that prioritise security-based responses, its national implementation must guarantee an approach that avoids any rollback in rights.

Finally, in the face of the growing spread of disinformation and hate speech, the need for a State Pact to counter them is becoming ever more pressing.

FAIR TAXATION

It is essential to **drive forward a comprehensive tax reform** aimed at endowing the system as a whole with **greater progressivity and revenue-raising capacity**, by simplifying it and closing the loopholes that allow those who have and earn the most to pay proportionally less than ordinary workers.

To advance in this direction, we consider it a priority to address changes in corporate taxation, particularly by **rethinking corporation tax**. It is also urgent to **improve the taxation of wealth** by reforming the design of the current wealth tax. In the area of **green taxation**, compliance with the commitments made to the European Commission can no longer be postponed. It is necessary to roll out a package of environmental tax measures that can help correct consumption and investment behaviours that are harmful to the environment. It is crucial that these measures consider the situation of the most vulnerable groups and ensure that no one is left behind in the essential green transition.

On the international and European stage, Spain must **continue to promote the agenda on the taxation of large fortunes, corporate taxation and the fight against tax havens**. In addition, Spain must explicitly support the negotiations under the United Nations Framework Convention on International Tax Cooperation.

Finally, in order to fight effectively against tax havens, **the criteria used to draw up the European Union (EU) blacklist must be reviewed**, automatically including all countries and jurisdictions with very low or zero tax rates for both individuals and companies, including EU countries. The revision of criteria should also be extended to the Spanish blacklist, with increased transparency and effectiveness in identifying the territories with the most aggressive tax practices.

DECENT, AFFORDABLE HOUSING

A **paradigm shift** is needed in **the way this problem is addressed**. At Oxfam Intermón, we echo the proposals that other organisations⁴⁹ have been putting forward for some time, with the aim of implementing an **inclusive, rights-based housing policy** in our country.

In this direction, we believe it is necessary to pursue a **State Pact on Housing**, promote a stock of social and affordable housing, increase public investment in this area, guarantee mechanisms to generate affordable housing and bring vacant homes or properties used for tourist purposes into the rental market, apply the Housing Law in those Autonomous Communities where it is not being implemented, protect the population from housing vulnerability, and make a firm commitment to urban renewal and rehabilitation.

The situation of young people also requires particular attention in light of the enormous barriers they face in accessing decent and affordable housing. These barriers hinder their emancipation and independent life projects, generate frustration, and contribute to the perpetuation of intra- and intergenerational inequalities.

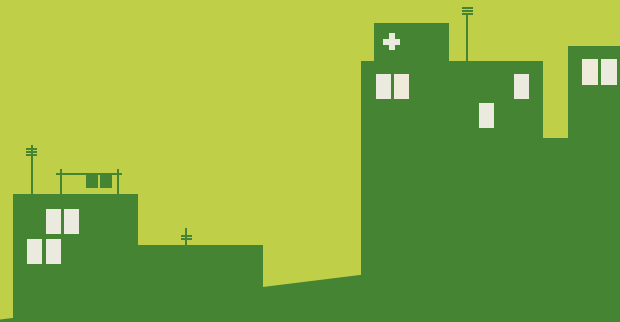
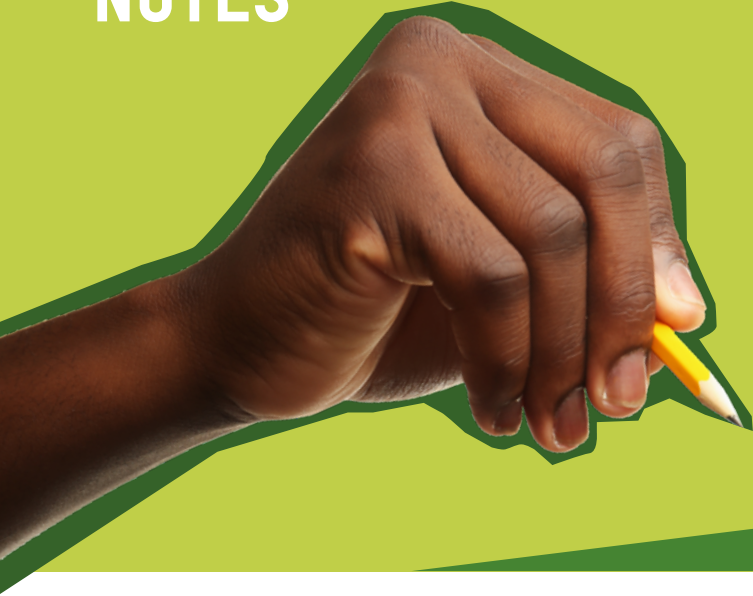
THE ROLE OF COMPANIES

Lastly, **companies constitute the main arenas where income and wealth are generated, and where an initial distribution of both takes place that is far from equitable**. Major Spanish corporations continue to operate within a business model designed to benefit the most privileged social groups, as executives and shareholders are the main recipients of the sustained growth in profits. **This business paradigm, focused exclusively on maximising economic profit, results in insufficient progress in paying decent wages** to all those who work directly or indirectly for these companies, hard-to-justify pay gaps, limited commitments to fiscal and environmental responsibility, and a lack of adequate mechanisms to ensure respect for human rights throughout their value chains. For this reason, **we believe it is essential to promote a shift in the business model that prioritises the fight against inequality**, placing social and environmental components at the heart of companies' value propositions, above returns on capital.

In short, we must continue to be bold and confront inequalities in all their complexity. Only in this way can a horizon of justice and equity be built for our country in a context as complex as the current one. This cannot be achieved without incorporating a multidimensional and intersectional understanding of inequality into analysis and public policy design. The fight against inequality is a collective responsibility.



NOTES



1. See OECD (2025), *States of Fragility 2025*, which identifies 61 contexts of high and extreme fragility where 2 billion people live and warns of the convergence of crises, conflict and instability with devastating impacts; see also Amnesty International (2025), *The State of the World's Human Rights*, which documents human rights violations in 61 countries and highlights how armed conflict, repression and the weakening of the international system are worsening the situation globally.
2. Since 2015, the richest 1% have gained at least 33.9 trillion dollars in real wealth, enough to end annual poverty 22 times over. Billionaires (around 3,000 individuals) have amassed 6.5 trillion dollars in real terms, more than the estimated 4 trillion dollars required annually to achieve the SDGs. Oxfam International. (n.d.). *From Private Profit to Public Power* (briefing paper). Oxfam International, taken from: <https://www.oxfam.org/en/research/private-profit-public-power-financing-development-not-oligarchy>
3. Gini coefficient: 0.310 in December 2024 (Eurostat), ranking behind only Bulgaria (0.372), Lithuania (0.35), Latvia (0.34) and Portugal (0.33) within the European Union as a whole. AROPE rate 2024 (income 2023): 25.8%, compared with an EU average of 21.0%, placing Spain 4.8 percentage points above the EU average.
4. See Oxfam Intermón. (2023). *Vivir la desigualdad*. Oxfam Intermón.
5. GDP recorded a quarter-on-quarter increase of 0.8% in volume terms in the second quarter compared with the previous quarter. This rate was two tenths of a percentage point higher than that recorded in the first quarter of 2025. Year-on-year GDP growth stood at 3.1%, compared with 3.2% in the previous quarter. Domestic demand contributed 3.5 percentage points, while external demand made a negative contribution of 0.5 percentage points. See https://www.ine.es/dyngs/INEbase/es/operacion.htm?c=Estadistica_C&cid=1254736164439&idp=1254735576581&menu=ultiDatos&utm_source=chatgpt.com
6. 62.4% of people in Spain believe that inequality can be eradicated. This represents a decrease of 0.7 percentage points compared with 2023. 38.4% believe this firmly. A firm perception or belief is defined as one in which the response scores 8 or higher on a scale from 1 to 10.
7. Despite GDP growth and job creation in 2024, the in-work poverty rate remains at 11.6% – five percentage points above the European Union average – and rises to 21.3% among part-time contracts, 25% among self-employed people, and as high as 36.4% among large families with children, demonstrating that the macroeconomic recovery is not reaching all groups equally. Data from Oxfam Intermón (2024).

8. In the second half of 2024, the youth unemployment rate stood at 19.1%, 30% of young people were at risk of poverty or social exclusion, and the median annual youth salary was €14,046.52. Median rent reached €1,080 per month, the cost of emancipating alone amounted to 92.3% of the average net youth salary, and the median purchase price was €197,210, equivalent to 14 years of gross earnings. As a result, only 15.2% of people under the age of 30 are living independently. See the Observatorio de Emancipación (second half of 2024). <https://www.cje.org/investigacion/#290-310-2o-semester-2024>
9. Oxfam Intermón previously analysed the inflationary impact on economic inequality in Spain in its 2023 report *Sobra mucho mes al final del sueldo*. Source: <https://www.oxfamintermon.org/es/publicacion/davos-2023-sobra-mes-final-sueldo>
10. Data obtained from FUNCAS (June 2025). Source: https://www.funcas.es/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/100pi_funcas_2025.06.13.pdf
11. Instituto Nacional de Estadística (July 24, 2025). Labour Force Survey (EPA). Source: <https://www.ine.es/dyngs/Prensa/EPA2T25.htm>
12. Instituto Nacional de Estadística (July 2025). Consumer Price Index (CPI). Monthly, annual and year-to-date index variation. Source: https://www.ine.es/prensa/ipc_tabla.htm This figure is even higher in the case of core inflation, which fell from 6% in 2023 to 2.9% in 2024 and to 2.4% in August 2025. Source: https://www.ine.es/dyngs/INEbase/es/operacion.htm?c=Estadistica_C&cid=1254736176802&menu=ultiDatos&idp=1254735976607
13. Source: <https://www.sepe.es/SiteSepe/contenidos/observatorio/tendencias/2025-Tendencias-del-mercado-de-trabajo-en-Espa-a-NIPO.pdf>
14. The latest report issued by the Economic and Social Council (CES), drawing on 2024 data, confirms these positive trends and adds further favourable indicators of macroeconomic evolution. These include a disinflationary path combined with interest rate cuts, improved productivity, growth in household consumption expenditure (with growth of 2.8% driven by population growth), an increase in investment (up by 3%), a new peak in the surplus in trade in goods and services, a shift in GDP distribution in favour of labour income driven by strong employment growth, and fiscal consolidation marked by declining deficit and public debt ratios, among others. Source: https://www.ces.es/documents/10180/5361467/RESUMEN_EJECUTIVO_MEMORIA_2024.pdf
15. Recently, the highly regarded economist Mariana Mazzucato made the same point in an interview with the newspaper *El País*, stating that ‘when macroeconomics does not translate into material living conditions, it is only natural for people to push back.’ Source: <https://elpais.com/economia/2025-06-07/mariana-mazzucato-economista-europa-debe-reimaginar-su-politica-industrial-y-perder-el-miedo-cronico-al-deficit.html>
16. The average annual salary stood at €28,049.94 gross per worker in 2023, 4.1% higher than in the previous year. The average salary for women was €25,591.31, while for men it was €30,372.49, resulting in a gender pay gap of 17%. A total of 67% of the population earn less than €30,000 gross per year. Only 14% earn more than €45,000, and just 5.5% exceed €60,000. The median salary – that is, the salary that divides workers into two equal groups, those earning more and those earning less – was €23,349 gross in 2023. The modal salary – the most frequent salary level, accounting for 4.6% of all employees – was €15,574.85 gross per year. Source: <https://www.ine.es/dyngs/Prensa/es/EAES2023.htm>
17. According to data from the Instituto Nacional de Estadística (INE), the average annual earnings per worker (both sexes) stood at €21,883 per year in 2008 and at €28,049 in 2023, the latest available figure, representing a net increase of €6,166 per year. Source: <https://ine.es/dynt3/inebase/index.htm?padre=4564&capsel=4568> At the same time, the House Price Index (annual averages for both new and existing homes) was €100,000 in 2015, the year Spain emerged from the Great Recession. By 2024, the latest data available, this figure had reached €159,656, representing a net increase of €59,656. Source: https://www.ine.es/dyngs/INEbase/es/operacion.htm?c=Estadistica_C&cid=1254736152838&menu=ultiDatos&idp=1254735976607

18. It is worth setting these data alongside recent analyses of job satisfaction and well-being. For example, ManpowerGroup published their *Global Talent Barometer* in December 2024, revealing several significant elements of these mixed dynamics. A total of 49% of employees in Spain reported experiencing work-related stress on a daily basis. In terms of job satisfaction, Spain stood two points below the global index (63%), at 61%, matching the international average. Six out of ten Spanish workers said they were satisfied with their current job, and perceptions of job security were relatively high. Specifically, 67% believed their job was secure for the next six months, four points below the international average. Source: <https://www.manpowergroup.es/estudios/descubre-como-se-sienten-los-trabajadores-espanoles-en-su-empleo-actual>
19. Source: <https://www.oxfamintermon.org/es/publicacion/pobreza-laboral-trabajar-no-suficiente>
20. The conclusion of this report was unequivocal: in Spain today, care work continues to be ‘a women’s problem solved among women,’ due to the lack of shared responsibility on the part of men and the limited capacity of the public sector to provide comprehensive solutions. All of this comes at a labour-related cost, reflected in increased precarity, poorer pay, greater job insecurity, and adverse effects on physical and emotional health, with true equality still a distant prospect. It is therefore unsurprising that, once again, the current survey shows a strong connection between job satisfaction and the capacity to balance work and care. This compels us to adopt an interpretation grounded in gender inequalities, shaped by the double working day resulting from the sexual division of labour. Source: <https://www.oxfamintermon.org/es/publicacion/desigualdad-trabajo-cuidados>
21. It is relevant to compare these perception figures with some key aspects of the types of contracts held by young people in Spain. According to the *State Youth Labour Market Report 2024* (based on 2023 data), produced by the Observatory of Occupations, part of the Servicio Público de Empleo Estatal (SEPE), temporary contracts accounted for 57.38% of all contracts signed with young people, while permanent contracts represented 42.62%. Compared with the previous year, these shares have moved in favour of job stability, reflecting a 19.78% decrease in temporary contracts. A total of 44.12% of contracts were signed under the category ‘temporary due to production circumstances’. Hiring under this category declined by 14.88% compared with the previous year. The contract for a specific project or service has disappeared following the elimination of this category in the latest labour reform. The good news is that growth in the ‘standard permanent’ contract category (with or without incentives) was very significant, increasing by 9.85% compared with 2022. The high level of temporary employment among young people may be one of the many factors underlying this highly negative perception of work. Source: https://www.sepe.es/SiteSepe/contenidos/que_es_el_sepe/publicaciones/pdf/pdf_mercado_trabajo/2024/Informe-del-Mercado-de-Trabajo-de-J-venes-menores-de-30-a-os.-Estatad-2024--Datos-2023-.pdf
22. Purchasing more discounted products (65.2%), cutting back on leisure activities (60%), and reducing expenditure on clothing and footwear (55%). Data from the report *Vivir la desigualdad* (2023). Source: <https://www.vivirladesigualdad.org/>
23. It is important to contrast this perception with a number of mixed considerations regarding the behaviour of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for basic goods. By way of example, in July 2024 the Observatorio de la Cadena Alimentaria found that growth in food spending so far that year was below the inflation rate, with markedly better outcomes than in 2023, especially in items such as milk, fresh bread and pulses. Source: <https://www.lamoncloa.gob.es/serviciosdeprensa/notasprensa/agricultura/paginas/2024/02072024-gasto-en-alimentacion.aspx> By contrast, one year later, in June 2025, according to the price observatory of the Organización de Consumidores y Usuarios (OCU), the cost of groceries had surged, with an increase of 1.70%, particularly affecting meat and fish. Source: <https://www.ocu.org/organizacion/prensa/notas-de-prensa/2025/ipcalimentos270625> As these data show, price volatility in basic goods has a direct impact on household economies.
24. It is likewise necessary to interpret these perceptions alongside other analyses that highlight the continued presence of social vulnerability despite favourable employment trends and economic growth. For example, the Economic and Social Council, in its 2024 report, made the following observation: ‘The economic and employment growth observed in 2024, supported by population growth resulting from immigration, alongside a more moderate rise in the cost of living than in previous years and better access to financing, led to an improvement in households’ real disposable income and overall living conditions, as inequality and poverty levels fell, even though social vulnerability remained high. Employment did not consistently ensure incomes adequate to lift people out of poverty. Furthermore, the decline in inequality proved insufficient, especially when measured against economic progress, and indicators of poverty risk

and inequality remained elevated, as did the share of households facing material deprivation. Consequently, a segment of the population continued to live under conditions of vulnerability, notably unemployed individuals, people of foreign origin, and households with dependent children, especially single-mother households. This higher prevalence of vulnerability in households with children is reflected in child poverty risk levels, which remain among the highest in the European Union.’ (p. 386). Source: https://www.ces.es/documents/10180/5361467/Memoria_CES_2024.pdf

25. For example, according to the Fundación BBVA (2025), ‘private household spending on health has increased by 50% since 2003 and now accounts for more than a quarter of total health expenditure in Spain.’ Following this line of argument: ‘Private spending has maintained an upward trend over the past two decades, more stable than public spending, and currently represents 25.9% of total health expenditure. Between 2003 and 2022, private health spending increased by 50%, reaching €33.606 billion. Spanish households spent an average of €631 per household member on healthcare in 2023, according to the *Household Budget Survey* (EPF) of the Instituto Nacional de Estadística (INE). Half of private health spending was allocated to the purchase of therapeutic devices and equipment (prescription glasses, hearing aids) and to health insurance-related costs. The other half was spent on pharmaceutical products and on covering medical and hospital services, dental care and other ancillary services. Private insurance has gained 5 percentage points in households’ health spending, now accounting for 20.7% of the total. Source: <https://www.fbbva.es/noticias/aumenta-gasto-privado-salud-espana-esenciales-2-2025/>
26. Source: <https://www.sanidad.gob.es/profesionales/prestacionesSanitarias/CarteraDeServicios/home.htm>
27. To take the example of mental health-related services, the Consejo General de la Psicología has warned that the lack of psychologists in public healthcare is a ‘latent problem without an immediate solution’. Spain has 7 qualified psychologists per 100,000 inhabitants, whereas the European average stands at 18. Spain is therefore far below the ratios observed in Germany (41), the United Kingdom (18) and France (15). While the number of registered psychologists is increasing, the key issue lies in the number of professionals available within the National Health System. According to sources from the Mental Health Commissioner of the Spanish Ministry of Health, there are approximately 6,500 clinical psychologists. These are professionals who have completed the PIR (Resident Clinical Psychologist) and are the only ones eligible to be employed by the regional health authorities, with training focused on pathology. Of these 6,500 professionals, only 3,300 are working within the National Health System, in a country of nearly 49 million inhabitants. The Ministry itself acknowledges that these figures are preliminary, as the new statistics being developed by the Mental Health Commissioner are still underway and the information is disaggregated. Source: <https://www.infocop.es/el-deficit-de-psicologos-en-la-sanidad-publica-un-problema-latente-y-sin-solucion-inmediata/>
28. There is a substantial body of literature on this topic, but perhaps one of the reports that most strongly underscores this issue is the one prepared by Future Policy Lab (2022), *Derribando el dique de la meritocracia*. Source: https://www.futurepolicylab.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/220518_FPL_Derribando-el-dique-de-la-meritocracia-1.pdf
29. On this matter, we recommend reviewing the data provided by the Laboratorio de Oportunidades (2025). Source: <https://labdeoportunidades.com/>
30. Banco de España (2024), ‘El mercado de la vivienda en España: evolución reciente, riesgos y problemas de accesibilidad’, in *Annual Report 2023* of Banco de España. <https://www.bde.es/wbe/es/publicaciones/informes-memorias-anales/informe-anual/informe-anual-2023.html>
31. Comisiones Obreras (2025), ‘El lastre macroeconómico del rentismo inmobiliario impide crear 410.000 puestos de trabajo’. <https://estudios.ccoo.es/2df9fb4a180824df4b476fdea19b92fa000001.pdf>
32. The purchase price of housing in Spain rose by 35.2% between the first quarter of 2020 and the first quarter of 2025, while over the same period rental prices increased by 32.1%. Source: House Price Index of the Instituto Nacional de Estadística and data on rental price trends in Spain from Idealista.
33. Own calculations based on the microdata from the 40db survey for Oxfam Intermón. The figure was obtained by combining those who reported being directly affected with those who, although not personally affected by the housing crisis, indicated that it had an impact on their relatives or friends.
34. Own calculations based on the microdata from the 40db survey for Oxfam Intermón. The figure was obtained by cross-referencing the impact of the housing crisis with a re-coding of the age variable that groups respondents aged 16 to 34 as ‘young people’ and those aged 35 or over as ‘the rest of the adult population’.

35. Delclós, C., Segú, M., Lebrusán, I., Auciello-Estévez, I. & Salas-Rojo, P. (2023). *Vivienda para vivir: de mercado a derecho*. Future Policy Lab. Source: <https://www.futurepolicylab.com/informes/vivienda-para-vivir-de-mercancia-a-derecho/>
36. The figures in this paragraph are based on the authors' own analysis of the microdata from the 40db survey conducted for Oxfam Intermón. The figure was obtained by cross-referencing respondents who report being directly affected by the housing crisis with their housing tenure status, grouping the four categories of owner-occupied housing as owners, the three categories of rented housing or rooms as tenants, and leaving cases of non-emancipation unchanged.
37. Ibid.
38. Own calculations based on the microdata from the 40db survey for Oxfam Intermón. For this calculation, we have defined young people as those aged 18 to 34, excluding those aged 16 and 17, given that emancipation below the legal age of majority is very uncommon.
39. This figure is similar to other housing market statistics in Spain, such as the *Radiografía del mercado de la vivienda en el primer semestre de 2024* produced by Fotocasa Research.
40. Own calculations based on the microdata from the 40db survey for Oxfam Intermón. The figure was obtained by grouping together all responses indicating two or more properties in answer to the question, 'How many homes do you have for rent?'
41. Pérez, P., Palomera, J. & Ill-Raga, M. (2024) *De propietarios a inquilinos. Informe sobre la creciente desigualdad en el acceso a la propiedad*. Barcelona: Instituto de Investigación Urbana de Barcelona.
42. The figures in this paragraph are based on the authors' own analysis of the microdata from the 40db survey conducted for Oxfam Intermón. They were obtained by cross-referencing responses on the likelihood of receiving family support to purchase a home with the socio-economic status variable, which has three categories: upper/upper-middle, middle, and lower-middle/lower.
43. Some studies suggest that, although young people's interest in politics has remained stable over the past decade, there has been a decline in support for the democratic system, particularly among those aged 18 to 24. Source: <https://www.centroreinasofia.org/publicacion/jovenes-politica/>
44. According to the Labour Force Survey (INE, Q2 2025), the unemployment rate for people under 25 reaches 24.5%, more than twice the general average. Among those under 30, this figure falls to 18.54%, though it remains above the average. The Labour Force Survey (INE, second quarter of 2025) also shows that 73% of all part-time workers are women. According to the report *Pobreza laboral: cuando trabajar no es suficiente* (Oxfam Intermón, 2024), in-work poverty disproportionately affects migrants, whose rate is three times the national average. A total of 29.5% of those born outside the European Union are in a situation of in-work poverty, compared with 9.8% of those born in Spain.
45. Among those aged 25 to 34, average support stands at 6 out of 10 for both a universal basic income and a universal inheritance. Among those aged 16 to 24, support is slightly lower: 5.9 for universal basic income and 5.8 for universal inheritance. In older age groups, support declines progressively, reaching its lowest levels among those aged 55 to over 65: 5.5 and 5.6 respectively for universal basic income, and 4.8 for universal inheritance in both groups. Own data from the survey *Vivir la desigualdad*.
46. Source: <https://www.boe.es/buscar/doc.php?id=DOUE-L-2019-81159>
47. Source: <https://www.boe.es/buscar/doc.php?id=DOUE-L-2022-81556>
48. Source: <https://www.oxfamintermon.org/es/publicacion/pobreza-laboral-trabajar-no-suficiente>
49. The proposals set out in this section stem from a review of housing reports produced by various social organisations and think tanks, including AESCO, Analistas Financieros Internacionales (AFI), the Banco de España, CEDRE, Economistas sin Fronteras, Future Policy Lab, the Instituto de Investigación Urbana de Barcelona (IDRA), Hogar Sí, Provivienda, the Sindicato de Inquilinas de Madrid and the Sindicat de Llogateres. However, not all of these organisations endorse every proposal included in this report, nor are their proposals limited to those outlined here.

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METHODOLOGY



SURVEY TECHNICAL DETAILS

- **Geographic scope:** Spain.
- **Universe:** General population resident in Spain (excluding Ceuta and Melilla), aged 16 and over.
- **Sample size:** 4,102 interviews. Quotas by sex, age, Autonomous Community, size of place of residence, and socioeconomic level. The representativeness of foreign nationals is ensured.
- **Fieldwork method:** Online interview (CAWI).
- **Sampling error:** $\pm 1.53\%$ (95% confidence level).
- **Fieldwork dates:** 18 March 2025 to 4 April 2025.

TECHNICAL NOTE

This study is based on a survey that combines both **perceptions and behaviours of people living in Spain**.

On the one hand, it presents comparisons between the responses obtained in the previous edition (2023) and the current one. These comparisons cover perceptions of how inequality has evolved both globally and in Spain, as well as across different dimensions such as health, education, the economy, employment, and the role of taxation as a tool to combat inequality.

The survey also includes new questions focused on housing as an increasingly relevant dimension of inequality. These questions aim to understand the objective housing situation, levels of concern and related experiences, future expectations, the concept of decent housing, and the degree of support for different public policy measures in this area, among other aspects.

Any discrepancies between some of the data in this study and official sources may be due to methodological reasons. When reading this report, the following should be borne in mind:

- The survey was administered online through a panel of internet users.
- It is a survey of individuals, not households.
- The sample includes people aged 16 and over.
- The wording of the questions in this survey may mean that the results are not comparable with those from other surveys.

TECHNICAL NOTE ON SEGMENTATION

Throughout this report, some frequencies are presented for the general population, followed by a series of segmentations of interest.

These segmentations are indicated when there are statistically significant differences compared with the population average.

The segmentation variables used are as follows:

- **Gender:** grouped into four categories (men, women, non-binary and other).
- **Age:** grouped into seven categories (16–17 years, 18–24 years, 25–34 years, 35–44 years, 45–54 years, 55–64 years and 65 years and over).
- **Socioeconomic level:** grouped into five categories (high, upper-middle, middle, lower-middle and low), as presented in the General Media Survey (EGM), a standardised method for measuring socioeconomic status that can be consulted in detail [here](#), and which is summarised by classifying the interviewee on the basis of the following variables:
 - Household size and number of income earners in the household.
 - Work status, level of education and occupation of the main household earner.

The combination of these elements constitutes a better estimator for ranking households and individuals than income level alone.
- **LGBTQI+:** grouped into two categories (cisgender and heterosexual population, and the LGBTQI+ population).
- **Nationality:** grouped into three categories (Spanish, Spanish and another, and other).
- **Ethnic and racial self-identifications:** grouped into two categories (white or Caucasian, and racialized people). Racialized people are those who identify with any of the following groups, whether by origin, physical features, skin colour or culture: Afro-Latinx, Andean American, Latinx, Roma of other origin, Spanish Roma, Indo-Pakistani, Maghrebi, Asian, Sub-Saharan or Black African, or other.
- **Economic vulnerability:** grouped into three categories (those who save at the end of the month, those who struggle to make ends meet, and those who cannot make ends meet).
- **Housing tenure:** grouped into five categories (landlords, homeowners with a fully paid mortgage, homeowners paying a mortgage, tenants, and those living in their parents' or parents-in-law's home).

The sample data are as follows:

| CATEGORY | NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS (SAMPLE SIZE) |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| TOTAL | 4,102 |
| GENDER | |
| Men | 1,892 |
| Women | 2,192 |
| Non-binary | 13 |
| Other | 5 |
| AGE | |
| 16-17 years | 84 |
| 18-24 years | 352 |
| 25-34 years | 555 |
| 35-44 years | 726 |
| 45-54 years | 827 |
| 55-64 years | 616 |
| 65+ years | 942 |
| SOCIOECONOMIC LEVEL | |
| High | 1,073 |
| Upper-middle | 568 |
| Middle | 1,132 |
| Lower-middle | 437 |
| Low | 892 |
| LGBTQI+ | |
| Cisgender and heterosexual population | 3,678 |
| LGBTQI+ population | 454 |
| NATIONALITY | |
| Spanish | 3,520 |
| Spanish and other | 293 |
| Other | 289 |
| ETHNIC AND RACIAL SELF-IDENTIFICATIONS | |
| White or Caucasian | 3,076 |
| Racialized | 835 |
| ECONOMIC VULNERABILITY | |
| Save at the end of the month | 2,176 |
| Struggle to make ends meet | 1,370 |
| Cannot make ends meet | 556 |
| HOUSING TENURE | |
| Landlords | 289 |
| Homeowners with no mortgage | 1,533 |
| Homeowners paying mortgage | 927 |
| Tenants | 933 |
| Live with parents or parents-in-law | 324 |

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The report was designed by Elvira Rojas. It was translated into English by Colleen Terry (Cálamo y Cran).

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Oxfam is an international confederation made up of 21 affiliated organisations that work with partner and allied organisations to support millions of people around the world. Together, we fight inequality to end poverty and injustice, both now and in the long term, with the aim of building a future based on equality. For more information, please contact any of the organisations or visit the website at www.oxfamintermon.org

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