

THE CATALAN OBSERVATORY AND THE SOCIOECONOMIC INDICATORS



The Catalan Observatory at the LSE is a programme established in 2009 within the European Institute. It is sponsored by private and public sources, and it is independently run.

The Catalan Observatory at the LSE serves as a platform in the service of Catalan civil society and the academic world. Its main goals are the projection of Catalonia and its prominent actors in an international context, as well as promoting from an external and global perspective, research on, debate about and dissemination of the key issues relevant to Catalonia.

The activities promoted and organized by the Catalan Observatory include lectures, conferences and symposia (covering topics such as 'Healthcare reforms in UK and Catalonia'; 'The relation between Sports and Economic Development – from Barcelona'92 to the London Olympics 2012'; or 'Historical Memory and Policy Practice'); public and academic exchanges; and publications of research and specific reports, such as the one presented in this leaflet. These publications contribute in a very important way to the objectives of the Observatory, by raising awareness about the challenges that globalization and European integration pose to public sector efficiency, private sector competitiveness, the sustainability of the welfare state and cultural development within Catalonia itself as well as its aspirations to recognition as a nation.

The 'Socioeconomic Indicators 2009-2010' are the first contribution of a medium-term strategy to evaluate annually the socioeconomic dynamism of the Catalan economy, principally by analysing some patterns of competitiveness and the levels of socioeconomic openness. This first report has been focused on the examination of three different indicators created by the Observatory **on Social Mobility, Economic Competitiveness, and 'Globalization'**. Its conclusions of which are detailed in this leaflet.

London School of Economics - European Institute
Cowdray House, Portugal Street
LONDON WC2A 2AE
<http://www.lse.ac.uk/catalanobservatory>
[catalanobser](#) (twitter)

Contact us

If you want to join the mailing list of the Catalan Observatory and be the first to receive information, please send your details (full name and e-mail) to:
catalan.observatory@lse.ac.uk

Future events

5 October 2010

**Public lecture by Joan Maria Nin,
CEO of 'La Caixa'.**

**Talk on '*Thoughts on the
Macroeconomic Situation:
the role of La Caixa*'**



Patronat
Catalunyamón

With the collaboration of:
Abertis Infraestructuras S.A. • Caixa d'Estalvis i
Pensions de Barcelona, "la Caixa"
Foment del Treball Nacional • Mancomunitat de
Municipis de l'Àrea Metropolitana de Barcelona
Mediaproducció S.L. • Societat Econòmica
Barcelonesa d'Amics del País

SOCIOECONOMIC INDICATORS 2009-2010

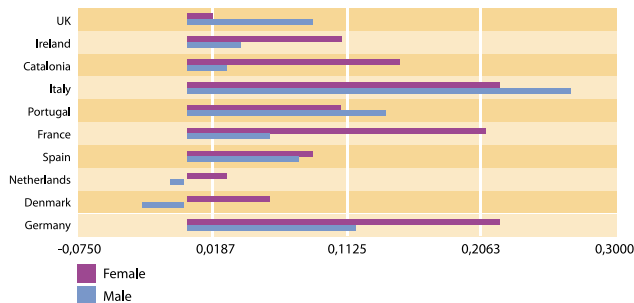
COMPETITIVENESS AND GLOBAL MOBILITY, LOOKING TO THE FUTURE OF THE CATALAN ECONOMY

www.lse.ac.uk/catalanobservatory

1. INTER-GENERATIONAL MOBILITY (SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES)

Social mobility based on income indicates to what extent the social position (calculated by the level of income declared) of the adult population is different from that of their progenitors.

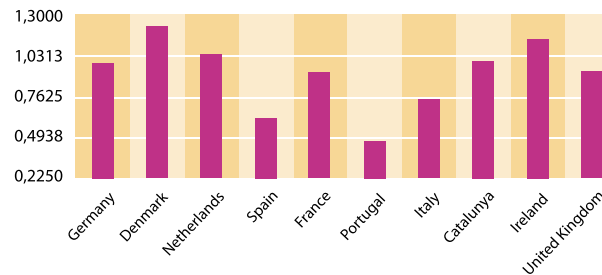
Indicator 1: Social Mobility (Correlation between the Permanent Income of Parents and Childrens - Elasticity)



- The interest of an indicator with such parameters is to evaluate whether the so called 'social elevator' works in a certain society.
- The main hypothesis is that in a dynamic society the given socioeconomic position of a certain generation should not generally and necessarily depend on the socioeconomic position of the previous one.
- Commonly the literature about 'inter-generational mobility' agrees in defining such notion as the association between the permanent income of parents and childrens, expressed as a logarithm and contextualised (with statistical controls) in relation to the moment in which parents and childrens are in their 'life cycle'.
- The methodology and exact equations can be consulted on our website: www.lse.ac.uk/catalanobservatory. Among the principal sources that we have used is '*Panell de Desigualtat de Catalunya – Fundació Jaume Bofill*', as well as the logarithms used by the European Union Household Panel Survey.
- The results show that social mobility for men in Catalunya is close to the Irish level; superior to the French and German; but inferior to the Dutch or the Danish. In contrast, the data for women in Catalunya show much less social mobility than for men, and in country comparisons, women benefit from less social mobility in Catalunya than those in Germany, France, Italy and the Spanish average¹.

2. COMPETITIVENESS

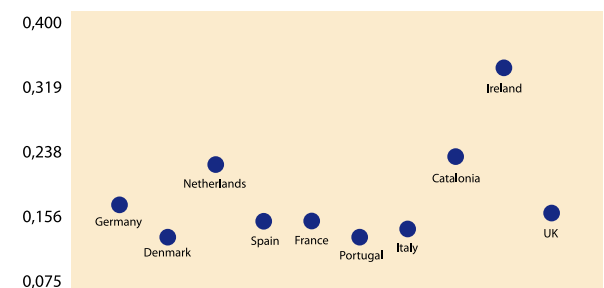
Indicator 2: Competitiveness 2009



- The interest of an indicator with such parameters is to evaluate the capacity of a certain territory to adapt to new economic circumstances (both external as internal). In that sense, it shows not only its economic 'potential' but also its degree of economic 'attractiveness' for external exchanges.
- The different variables used to calculate the indicator are derived from the databases of Eurostat and Idescat. The indicator has been calculated using the multivariable analysis methodology, in order to estimate the different coefficient for each variable. The exact equations can be consulted on our website www.lse.ac.uk/catalanobservatory
- The group of variables analyzed include: spending on R&D in proportion to GDP; GDP per capita; Unemployment; Railway and motorway density; spending in Tertiary Education in proportion to GDP; Public Expenditure on Education; Internet Accessibility and Technology graduates per 1000 pop.
- The level of competitiveness in Catalonia is similar to the German one; and inferior to the Dutch, Danish and Irish one².

3. ECONOMIC GLOBALISATION

Indicator 3: Economic Globalisation Index in 2009



- The interest of an indicator with such parameters is to evaluate the degree of economic exposure to the international economy.
- The different variables used to calculate the indicator are derived from the databases of Eurostat, Idescat, *Direcció General de Comerç i Turisme*, and INE (*Instituto Nacional de Estadística*). The exact sources can be consulted on our website www.lse.ac.uk/catalanobservatory.
- The indicator is calculated through the analysis of certain components such as: commercial openness rate; investment openness rate and income openness rate. In that sense the calculation of the indicator does not include any variable regarding social or political globalization.
- The results suggest that Catalunya's economy is exposed to a higher level of globalization than the Spanish average, that of United Kingdom or Germany; and to a similar level to that of Netherlands and Ireland³.