

30 June 2023

Population and Housing Censuses 2021
Results on Households and Dwellings

**In Spain there were 18,539,223 households on 1 January 2021,
455,531 more than in 2011**

The total number of dwellings was 26,623,708

**According to the consumption of electricity in a full year, 3,837,328
dwellings were classified as *empty* and 2,514,511 as *occasional use***

The National Statistics Institute (INE) today completes the publication of the Population and Housing Censuses 2021 with the information on households and dwellings. Dissemination of data on people began in November 2022.

With this latest publication, a new system is introduced that will make it possible to avail of population censuses each year and of censuses of dwellings for years ending in 1, 5 and 8.

Unlike the censuses carried out in Spain since the 19th century, which were constructed with information compiled by interviewing households, the 2021 census has been compiled by combining dozens of administrative records, without surveying any dwellings.

Spain thus joins a small group of European countries that base their demographic censuses on these data sources (see methodological note).

This census also contains an important new feature: a classification of dwellings on the basis of their degree of use based on electricity consumption data.

Households

The resident population in Spain on 1 January 2021, which stood at 47,400,798 inhabitants, live mostly in conventional family dwellings. However, the census also studies the population that reside in other kinds of accommodation (shacks, caravans, etc.) and in collective establishments (retirement homes, military barracks, prisons, convents, etc.).

The number of households in Spain stood at 18,539,223, which is 455,531 more than in 2011 (2.5% more).

A small proportion, 2,607 households, live in other accommodation.

In collective establishments, where the people on the municipal register are counted (not those residing there at any given time) there were 333,826 people in 2021.

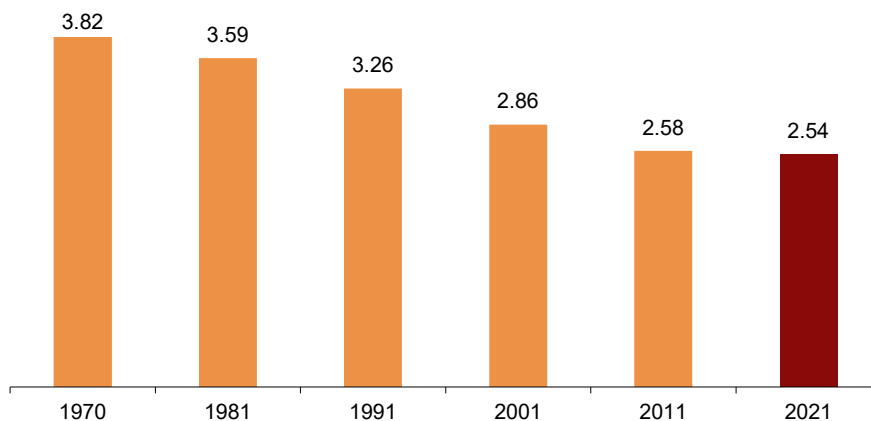
In 2011, both those people residing in collective establishments and those who were registered as residing there were counted. This second figure - which can actually be compared with the 2021 figure - was 241,187, so the population registered in these establishments grew by 38.4% over the decade.

Family households and collective establishments

	Number	Resident population
TOTAL	18,553,289	47,400,798
Family dwellings	18,539,223	47,066,972
In accommodations	2,607	7,199
In conventional family dwellings	18,536,616	47,059,773
By number of members		
- One person alone	5,001,166	5,001,166
- Two persons	5,203,749	10,407,498
- Three persons	3,837,982	11,513,946
- Four persons	3,123,216	12,492,864
- Five or more persons	1,373,110	7,651,498
Group dwellings	14,066	333,826

The average number of members per household fell by 2.54 people in 2021, from 2.58 in 2011, thus continuing the decline observed during the last 50 years.

Evolution of average household size 1970-2021. People



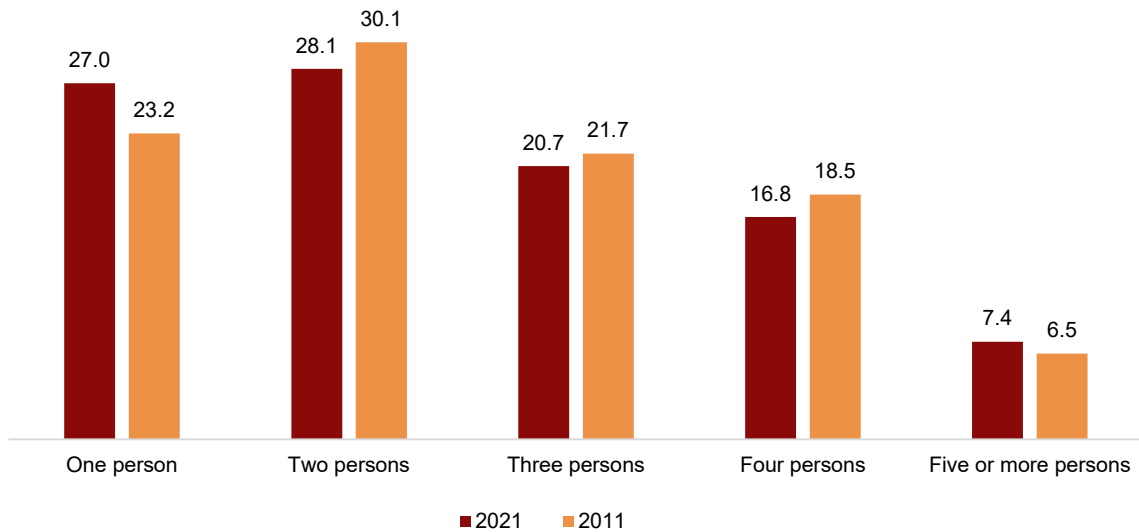
The most frequent households in 2021 were those comprising two people (28.1% of the total), although this group has decreased by 238,091 in comparison with 2011.

The numbers of households with three and four people have also declined, while the number of households with five or more people grew by 194,227 in 10 years.

The number of one-person households in Spain was 5,001,166 in 2021, an increase of 807,847 (19.3%) from the figure 10 years ago.

Of these, in 2,089,175 households there was a person aged 65 years or over living alone (22.2% more than in 2011). There was a woman residing in most of these households, 70.8%.

Percentage of households by number of members in 2021 and 2011



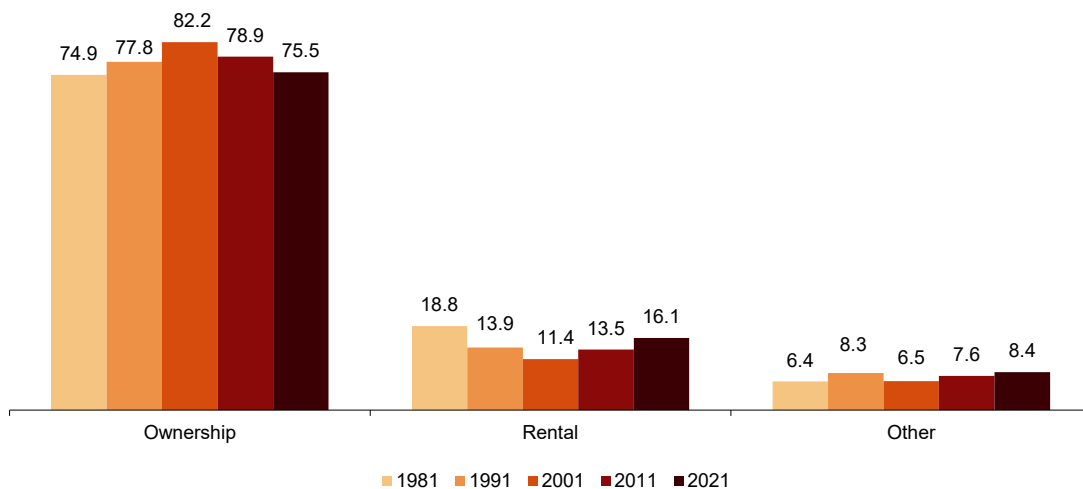
Dwelling tenure status

Three of every four households, 75.5%, owned the property in 2021, compared with the figure of 78.9% ten years ago.

In contrast, the percentage of rented dwellings has grown to 16.1% of the total, thus continuing the upward trend recorded in the last two decades.

Evolution of the number of main residences by tenure status.

Percentage



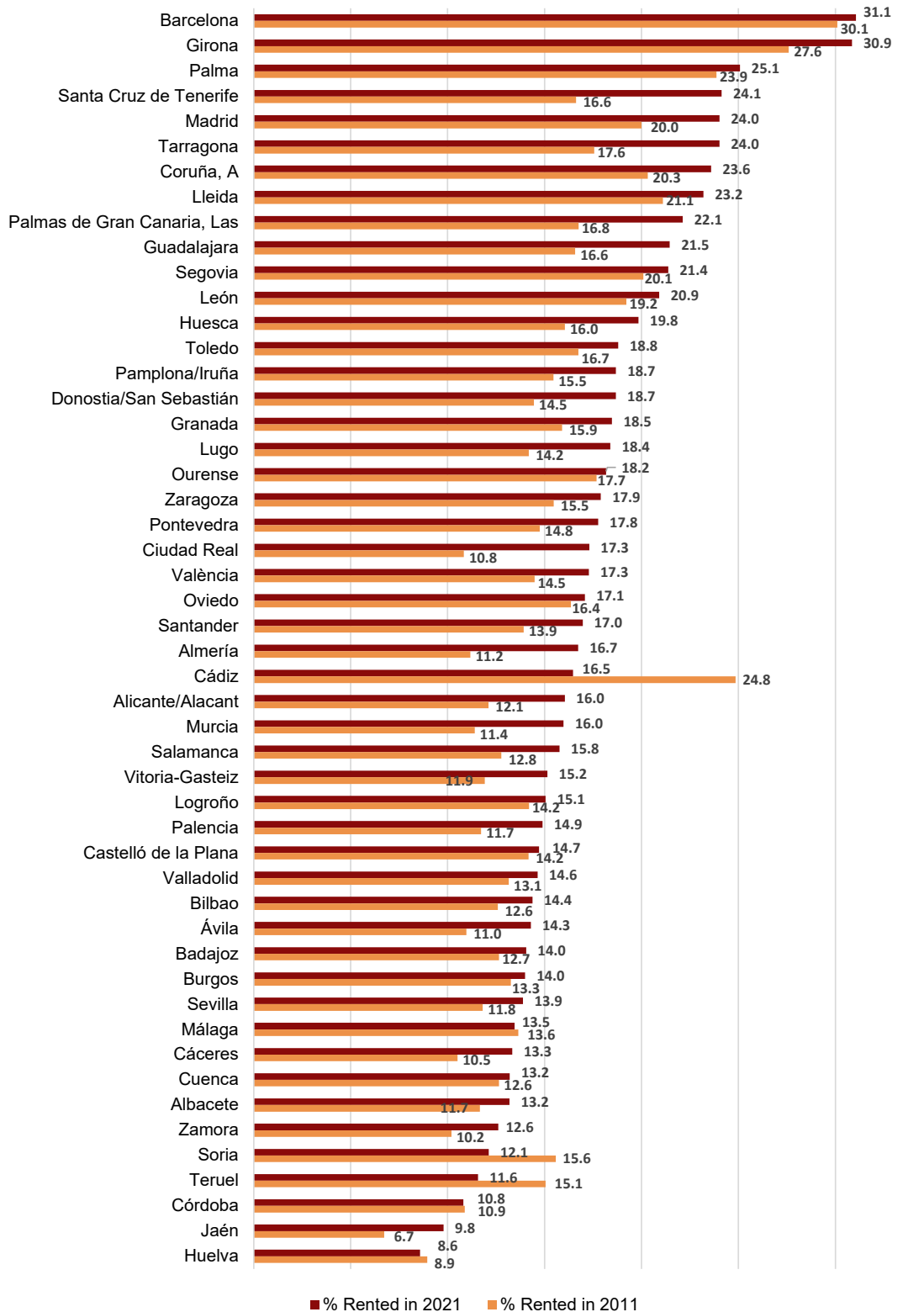
Barcelona (31.1%) and Girona (30.9%) were the provincial capitals with the largest percentages of rented dwellings in 2021, while Huelva (8.6%) and Jaén (9.8%) had the lowest percentages.

In the last decade, the percentage of rented dwellings increased in almost all the provincial capitals. The sharpest increases were in Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Tarragona and Ciudad Real.

In contrast, the percentage of rented dwellings fell in six capitals, of which four were in Andalucía. The drop in Cádiz stands out, from 24.8% to 16.5% of the total.

Rented dwellings. Provincial capitals

As a percentage of total dwellings. Comparison with 2011 Censuses



Main residences and total dwellings

The total number of dwellings as at 1 January 2021 was 26,623,708. Of this figure, 18,536,616 were main residences, that is to say, they contained the population registered in them.

Analysing the year of construction, there has been an increase of 734,655 dwellings in the decade¹.

Municipalities with more than 10,000 inhabitants with the largest and smallest percentage of main residences compared with total dwellings

Municipality	Higher percentage	Municipality	Lower percentage
Llagosta (La) (Barcelona)	95.2	Guardamar del Segura (Alicante/Alacant)	26.7
Badia del Vallès (Barcelona)	95.1	Castelló d'Empúries (Girona)	28.5
Coslada (Madrid)	94.6	Escala (L') (Girona)	28.8
Fuenlabrada (Madrid)	94.6	Laredo (Cantabria)	29.7
Ripollet (Barcelona)	94.4	San Javier (Murcia)	29.9
Parla (Madrid)	94.3	Torrevieja (Alicante/Alacant)	30.0
Sant Andreu de la Barca (Barcelona)	94.2	Alcázares (Los) (Murcia)	30.8
Etxebarri (Bizkaia)	93.9	Castell-Platja d'Aro (Girona)	31.2
Alcobendas (Madrid)	93.8	Roses (Girona)	31.8
Torrejón de Ardoz (Madrid)	93.6	Vera (Almería)	32.1
Veilla de San Antonio (Madrid)	93.5	Cullera (Valencia/València)	32.1
Berriozar (Navarra)	93.4	Santa Pola (Alicante/Alacant)	32.6
Móstoles (Madrid)	93.4	Mont-roig del Camp (Tarragona)	33.2
Alcorcón (Madrid)	93.3	Jaca (Huesca)	33.4
Martorell (Barcelona)	93.3	Calonge i Sant Antoni (Girona)	33.8
Santa Perpètua de Mogoda (Barcelona)	93.3	Chipiona (Cádiz)	35.6
Barañáin/Barañain (Navarra)	93.2	Orihuela (Alicante/Alacant)	35.9
Cornellà de Llobregat (Barcelona)	93.2	Pilar de la Horadada (Alicante/Alacant)	36.3
Majadahonda (Madrid)	93.2	Almuñécar (Granada)	36.8
Sant Boi de Llobregat (Barcelona)	93.0	Salou (Tarragona)	36.9

In general, the municipalities that have the highest percentages of main residences are in the metropolitan areas of large cities. In contrast, the lowest percentages are to be found in municipalities with seasonal occupancy, such as holiday destinations.

¹To analyse the growth of the housing stock, it is preferable to take the year of construction that appears in the 2021 census than comparing with the dwellings counted according to the 2011 census. The 2021 census data are not strictly comparable with those of 2011, given that the methodology changed and there is a certain break in the series. In addition to small differences, the main element of divergence occurs because **in 2011 only those that were used as dwellings and were built as such were counted as conventional dwellings; therefore the dwellings contained within the structure of the portals but that were used as commercial premises (doctor's surgeries, law firm offices, etc.) were not counted.**

The 2011 census published both the total number of dwellings (25,218,536) and the number of "properties located in residential buildings" (which stood at 25,849,338). This figure, without reflecting exactly the same concept of "housing" as that used in 2021, is the one that most resembles it. Therefore, this comparison would mean that the growth in the number of homes in the decade would be close to 776,978 (= 26,623,708 – 25,849,338). There is a more detailed description in the methodology of the 2021 censuses.

Classification of dwellings based on consumption of electricity

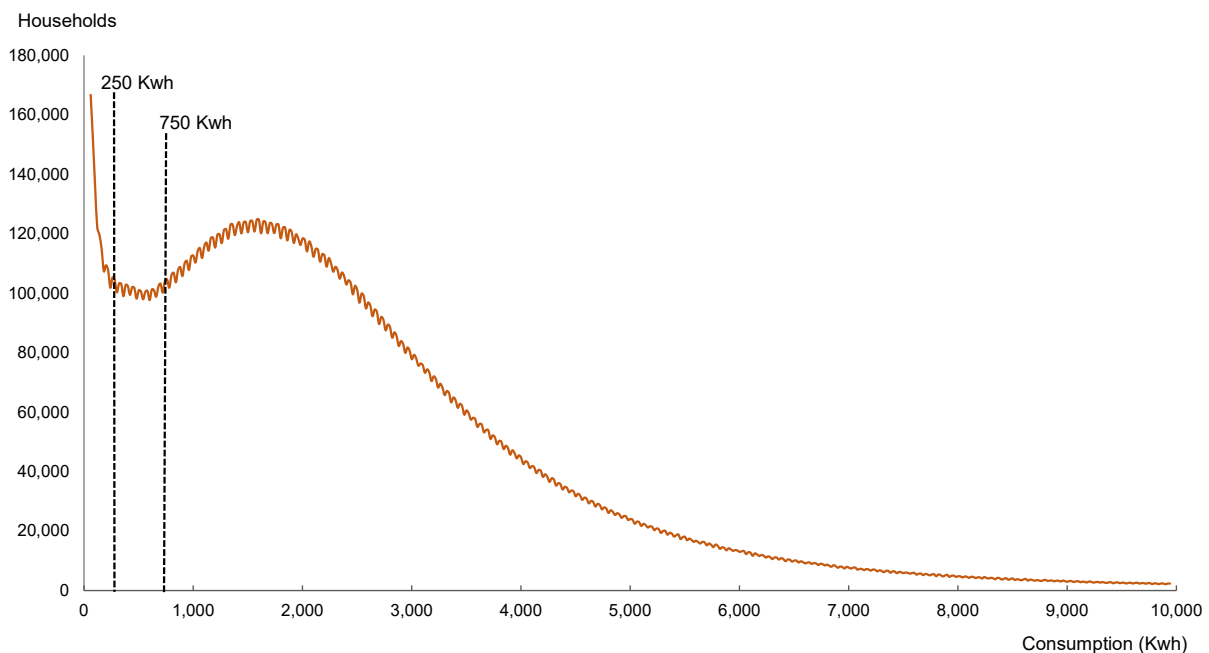
The use of administrative records in the 2021 dwellings census introduces an important new feature. Until 2011, dwellings were classified as main residences, secondary residences and empty, according to the information collected by the cadastral agent that visited the building.

The classification used in the 2021 census is much more accurate, since it is based on more objective information and data, such as the electricity consumption of the dwelling throughout the year preceding the date the census was taken (1 January 2021).

The analysis of dwellings according to electricity consumption is based on 28.8 million meters or CUPS (single supply point code) of which it is determined that on 1 January 2021 a total of 25,094,891 were dwellings².

These results are regarded as provisional,³ as more in-depth analysis of the improvement in the sources and their analysis is required. However, results are provided for all municipalities with more than 1,000 inhabitants (accounting for 97% of the population) and those with fewer than 1,000 inhabitants are grouped at the provincial level.

Distribution of dwellings by electricity consumption in 2020



Based on the distribution of dwellings by electricity consumption a first basic classification was constructed with four groups: *empty dwellings*, *dwellings with very low consumption*, *dwellings with sporadic use* and *rest of dwellings*.

² The electricity consumption data are obtained from the annual declarations of electricity consumption (form 159 of the Tax Agency and similar forms of the Regional Treasury) by the utility companies providing the supplies.

³ The median consumption by districts is also offered for municipalities with more than 1,000 inhabitants in which more than 75% of meters have been assigned to a district, although at present it is not possible to construct the classification of homes according to electricity consumption reliably for these districts.

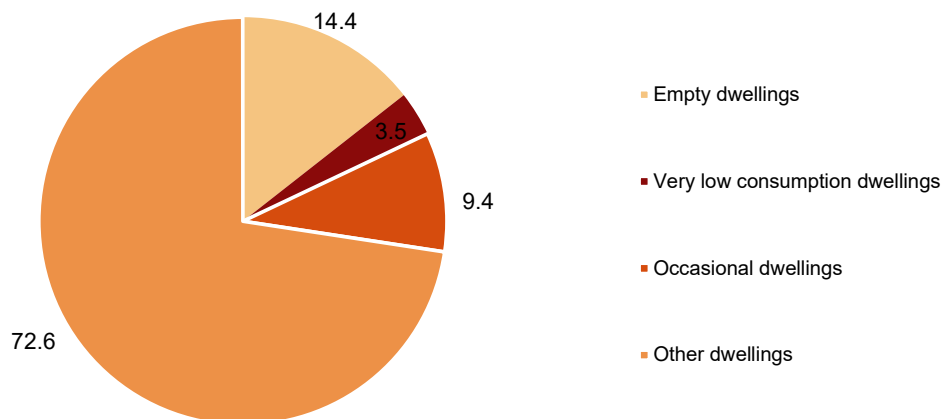
In addition, a classification is offered with more detailed tranches of consumption, as well as statistical indicators on median or other consumption, which makes it possible to study more precisely the degree of use of dwellings in each municipality.

Dwellings by electricity consumption at 1 January 2021

Total dwellings	26,623,708
Empty dwellings (below minimum threshold *)	3,837,328
Very low consumption (between minimum threshold and 250 Kwh)	943,924
Occasional consumption (between 251 and 750 Kwh)	2,514,511
From 751 to 2,000 kWh	7,279,896
From 2,001 to 3,000 Kwh	4,965,393
From 3,001 to 4,000 Kwh	3,022,218
From 4,001 to 5,000 Kwh	1,649,265
More than 5,000 kWh	2,411,173

*The minimum threshold is consumption 15 days a year for an average dwelling in that same municipality. The relevant thresholds for each municipality are published on INEbase.

Dwellings by electricity consumption at 1 January 2021



For the purposes of the 2021 Census, it has been decided to consider as empty housing any dwelling that does not have an electricity supply contract or whose total consumption recorded in the previous year has been lower than what an average home in the same municipality would have if it were occupied for 15 days during the whole year. The determination of specific thresholds for each municipality is due to the fact that average consumption varies greatly by climatic zones, being generally higher in areas with warm summers.

However, to facilitate the analysis, another threshold has been established – fixed for all municipalities – of 250 kWh that, on average and approximately, would be that of the consumption of a dwelling that was occupied for one month in the year. Homes with consumption below this threshold have been classified as very low consumption.

On the other hand, homes with a consumption between 251 kWh and 750 kWh (which, always on average, be that consumed by the household during a period of one to three months during the whole year) have been labelled as sporadic use.

The rest of the homes, without a specific label, are classified by consumption tranches up to more than 10,000 kWh. There are 391,624 dwellings beyond this tranche.

Empty dwellings

Empty homes in 2021 accounted for a much higher proportion in small municipalities.

Thus, those with fewer than 10,000 inhabitants, in which 20.3% of the total population resided, registered 45.0% of the empty housing stock. In contrast, cities with more than 250,000 inhabitants, where 23.8% of the population resided, contained only 10.5% of the total number of empty homes.

Distribution of empty dwellings by size of municipality

Size of the municipality	Population residing in households	% in relation to total population	Total dwellings	Main dwellings	Empty dwellings	% Empty in relation to total	% in relation to total empty dwellings	Empty dwellings per 100 inhab.
TOTAL	47,066,972	100.0	26,623,708	18,539,223	3,837,328	14.4	100.0	8.2
< 1000	1,438,179	3.1	1,662,704	645,660	551,377	33.3	14.4	38.3
1,001 to 10,000	8,112,560	17.2	5,434,721	3,208,264	1,173,031	21.6	30.6	14.5
10,001 to 50,000	12,664,514	26.9	7,155,467	4,855,841	995,782	13.9	25.9	7.9
50,001 to 250,000	13,671,370	29.0	6,912,547	5,304,726	714,065	10.2	18.6	5.2
Over 250,000	11,180,349	23.8	5,458,269	4,524,732	403,073	7.5	10.5	3.6

Municipalities with more than 10,000 inhabitants according to percentage of empty dwellings

Percentage

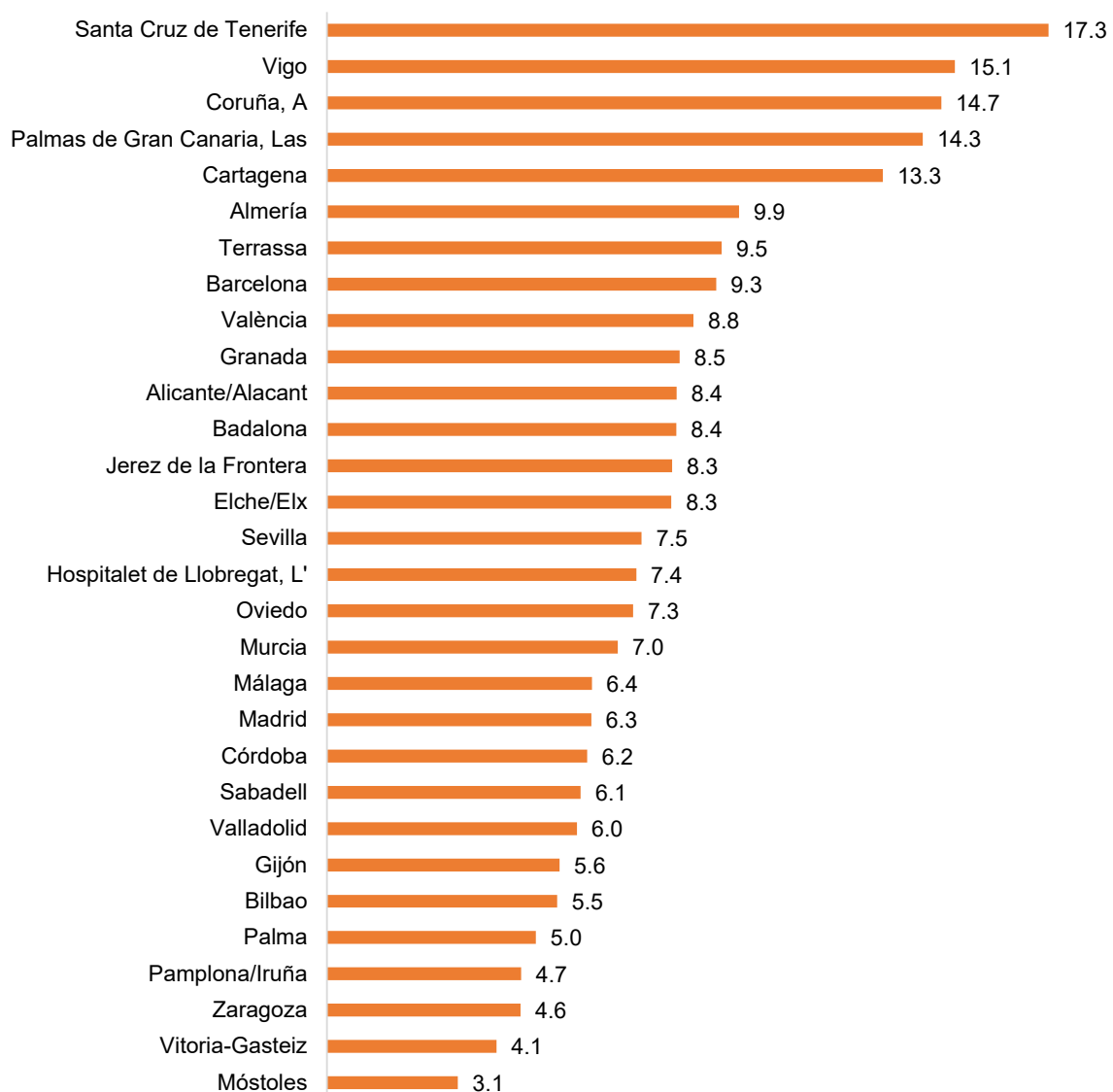
Municipality	Higher percentage	Municipality	Lower percentage
Tías (Palmas, Las)	48.0	Valle de Egúés/Eguesibar (Navarra)	2.1
Mos (Pontevedra)	46.5	Pallejà (Barcelona)	2.4
Monforte de Lemos (Lugo)	40.0	Majadahonda (Madrid)	2.7
Aller (Asturias)	38.9	Pinto (Madrid)	2.7
Verín (Ourense)	38.4	Villanueva del Pardillo (Madrid)	2.8
Antigua (Palmas, Las)	37.2	Fuenlabrada (Madrid)	2.9
Formentera (Balears, Illes)	37.1	Cerdanyola del Vallès (Barcelona)	3.0
Lalín (Pontevedra)	35.8	Rozas de Madrid (Las) (Madrid)	3.0
Santiago del Teide (Santa Cruz de Tenerife)	35.7	Leioa (Bizkaia)	3.0
Porriño (O) (Pontevedra)	34.9	San Sebastián de los Reyes (Madrid)	3.0
Bueu (Pontevedra)	34.8	Móstoles (Madrid)	3.1
Viveiro (Lugo)	34.7	Parla (Madrid)	3.2
Rianxo (Coruña, A)	34.4	Alcorcón (Madrid)	3.2
Mogán (Palmas, Las)	33.7	Leganés (Madrid)	3.3
Fuensalida (Toledo)	33.4	Tres Cantos (Madrid)	3.3
Daimiel (Ciudad Real)	33.3	Llagosta (La) (Barcelona)	3.3
San Miguel de Abona (Santa Cruz de Tenerife)	33.1	Alcobendas (Madrid)	3.4
Andratx (Balears, Illes)	33.1	Castellar del Vallès (Barcelona)	3.4
Betanzos (Coruña, A)	32.8	Daganzo de Arriba (Madrid)	3.4
Sarria (Lugo)	32.7	Arroyomolinos (Madrid)	3.4

The indicator of empty homes per 100 inhabitants ranged from 38.3 for municipalities with fewer than 100 people to 3.6 for cities with more than 250,000.

The municipalities with more than 10,000 inhabitants with the highest percentage of empty homes were Tías (48.0%), Mos (46.5%) and Monforte de Lemos (40.0%).

Considering only the 30 cities with more than 200,000 inhabitants, the highest percentages were in Santa Cruz de Tenerife (17.3%), Vigo (15.1%) and A Coruña (14.7%).

Cities with more than 200,000 inhabitants according to the percentage of empty homes



Dwellings with sporadic use

The municipalities where sporadic homes are abundant are located mainly on the coast and in inland municipalities and are destinations for summer holidays.

Among the municipalities with more than 2,000 inhabitants, Noja stood out, where almost half of the homes (47.7%) had sporadic use on 1 January 2021.

The 80 municipalities with more than 2,000 inhabitants with the highest percentage of sporadic dwellings

Municipality	Percentage of occasional dwellings	Municipality	Percentage of occasional dwellings
Noja (Cantabria)	47.7	Meruelo (Cantabria)	22.5
Benasque (Huesca)	34.5	Castell-Platja d'Aro (Girona)	22.4
Torreueva Costa (Granada)	34.2	Llançà (Girona)	22.4
Ezcaray (Rioja, La)	34.0	Villarcayo de Merindad de Castilla la Vieja (Burgos)	22.2
Oropesa del Mar/Orpesa (Castellón/Castelló)	32.4	Gualchos (Granada)	22.2
Daimús (Valencia/València)	32.4	Medina de Pomar (Burgos)	21.8
Peñíscola/Peñíscola (Castellón/Castelló)	31.8	Barreiros (Lugo)	21.6
Laredo (Cantabria)	31.5	Escala (L') (Girona)	21.5
Arnuero (Cantabria)	31.1	Almuñécar (Granada)	21.4
Míramar (Valencia/València)	30.3	Ribadesella (Asturias)	21.4
Comillas (Cantabria)	29.5	Cunit (Tarragona)	21.3
Bakio (Bizkaia)	29.2	Santa Pola (Alicante/Alacant)	21.1
Canet d'En Berenguer (Valencia/València)	28.8	Torrox (Málaga)	21.1
Chipiona (Cádiz)	28.7	Bellreguard (Valencia/València)	21.0
Jaca (Huesca)	27.9	Llanes (Asturias)	20.8
Moncofa (Castellón/Castelló)	27.3	Torreblanca (Castellón/Castelló)	20.8
Bareyo (Cantabria)	27.2	Salou (Tarragona)	20.8
Xeraco (Valencia/València)	27.2	Suances (Cantabria)	20.7
Alcalà de Xivert (Castellón/Castelló)	26.7	Tossa de Mar (Girona)	20.7
Isla Cristina (Huelva)	26.0	Voto (Cantabria)	20.6
Punta Umbría (Huelva)	26.0	Colunga (Asturias)	20.5
Ribamontán al Mar (Cantabria)	25.7	Calafell (Tarragona)	20.5
Chilches/Xilxes (Castellón/Castelló)	25.4	Pilar de la Horadada (Alicante/Alacant)	20.5
Cullera (Valencia/València)	25.2	Foz (Lugo)	20.4
Ramales de la Victoria (Cantabria)	25.1	Salobreña (Granada)	20.4
Lepe (Huelva)	24.9	Roda de Berà (Tarragona)	20.4
Camprodon (Girona)	24.8	Pobla de Farnals (la) (Valencia/València)	20.3
Piles (Valencia/València)	24.8	Navas del Marqués (Las) (Ávila)	20.2
Lekeitio (Bizkaia)	24.6	Tavernes de la Valldigna (Valencia/València)	20.2
Navaluenga (Ávila)	24.4	Altafulla (Tarragona)	20.2
Val de San Vicente (Cantabria)	24.4	Vera (Almería)	20.1
San Vicente de la Barquera (Cantabria)	24.1	Cervera de Pisuerga (Palencia)	20.0
Almonte (Huelva)	23.9	Santoña (Cantabria)	19.9
San Javier (Murcia)	23.4	Calonge i Sant Antoni (Girona)	19.7
Gorliz (Bizkaia)	23.3	Gozón (Asturias)	19.6
Guardamar del Segura (Alicante/Alacant)	23.3	San Esteban de Gormaz (Soria)	19.5
Adrada (La) (Ávila)	22.8	Bellver de Cerdanya (Lleida)	19.4
Alcázares (Los) (Murcia)	22.7	San Pedro del Pinatar (Murcia)	19.3
Benicasim/Benicàssim (Castellón/Castelló)	22.5	Piedralaves (Ávila)	19.3
Rota (Cádiz)	22.5	Mazarrón (Murcia)	19.2

Data reviews and updates

The data published today are definitive, except for the classification of dwellings by electricity consumption, which are provisional. All results are available on the census dissemination system.

https://www.ine.es/dynqs/INEbase/es/operacion.htm?c=Estadistica_C&cid=1254736176992&menu=resultados&idp=1254735572981

Methodological note

Today, the INE completes the publication of the Population and Housing Censuses 2021. In this release, the variables referring to households and dwellings in the territory are disseminated in a very detailed form.

Type of operation: Statistics with a ten-year periodicity, based on administrative data.

Population scope: population resident in Spain, with the population resident in a specific geographical area being understood to be those persons who, on the reference date, have established their habitual residence therein.

Geographical scope: national, autonomous communities and cities, provinces and islands, municipalities, districts and census sections.

Reference period for the results: 1 January 2021.

Dissemination frequency: decennial.

For more information, the methodology can be accessed at:

https://www.ine.es/censos2021/censos2021_meto.pdf

And the standardised methodological report is at:

<https://www.ine.es/dynt3/metadatos/es/RespuestaDatos.htm?oe=30243>

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Press office: Telephone numbers: (+34) 91 583 93 63 /94 08 – gprensa@ine.es

Information Area: Telephone number: (+34) 91 583 91 00 – www.ine.es/infoine/?L=1
