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## **What is the Population Now Cast?**

Population Now Cast is a synthetic statistic intended to determine at any given time the series of the resident population in Spain, its autonomous communities (self-governing regions) and its provinces, broken down by sex and age. They are produced with the best and most recent information available, applying the most suitable and sound demographic analysis and estimation techniques.

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## **Why do Population Now Cast need to be produced on a regular basis?**

The INE needs to have population figures to hand at any given time in order to generate results for a range of statistical operations: sampling surveys (EPA, EPF, etc.), national accounts, demographic indicators and others. The INE is also obliged to supply this updated information at certain times to Eurostat and international bodies. Further, it is essential statistical information for numerous users, authorities and institutions. This new synthetic statistic has come into play due to the recent heavy foreign migratory flow to Spain which has swiftly made projections obsolete and led to the design of a system which can make optimal use of the latest information available at any given time.

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## **How are population estimates made?**

The base population is primarily obtained from results from the Population and Housing Census 2001. Estimates for change parameters of fertility and mortality are made from information available from the final results for vital statistics. For correcting migratory movements in each period, migrations estimated from movements in the continuous population register (final change-of-residence figures and recent tallies of population register movements) are used. For further details on methodology, please see [Methodological summary](#) or [Detailed methodology](#). As this product has been designed by the INE, its sources or procedures may be improved. Historical reviews to observe deviations from the observed data are possible too, especially for the purpose of subsequent Population and Housing Censuses.

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### **Is this situation common in neighbouring countries?**

The Spanish statistical system finds itself in an intermediate or mixed situation. For example there are countries with classic systems (the vast majority, including English-speaking countries) which use now cast and short-, medium-, and long-term projections. Then there are countries (Nordic and other European countries) whose system of demographic statistics relies largely on highly developed population registers. Spain combines classic tools and statistical information estimated from our own population register, which plays a vital role and is a major achievement, which is set to remain indispensable in the future.

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### **Why can't Population Now Cast be estimated directly from statistics from the population register, our *Padrón Continuo*?**

Mainly because of timeliness and the characteristics of source data. Register figures require time to be generated and approved. Further, their production is subject to legal and government requirements, and the same applies to review and adjustment processes of specific individual data. Lastly, for design reasons, the *Padrón* fails to detect foreign emigration movements, particularly of foreign nationals. Nonetheless, the basic information on migratory flows is supplied by the population register and, without this crucial instrument of demographic information, it would be very difficult, perhaps impossible, to make estimates against our present background. For further information, see [What kinds of population figures does INE publish?](#), which also describes the relationship between Now Cast and population projections.