

MUSEUMS AND COLLECTIONS

Introduction

The Museums and Collections Statistics is a bi-annual study whose aims are many, including, among the most important, the following: to offer the citizen basic data on these cultural institutions; to make available to the Cultural Administrations the information necessary to make decisions regarding museum heritage and to respond to the demand for statistical information on the Autonomous, national and international organisation scopes. This statistical operation, belonging to the National Statistical Plan, was put in place in the year 2000.

This project is the result of the joint effort of the Statistical Office and the Subdirectorate General for Museums of the Ministry of Culture, in cooperation with the Ministry of Defense, Crown Heritage and the Autonomous Communities and Cities that have participated in the different stages and preparation of it.

Directory and unit to be studied

The directory used in the Survey is the Museums and Collections Census. This directory, available at the Ministry of Culture, is updated by the Autonomous Communities and Cities, the Ministry of Defense and Crown Heritage since the year 2000. The units to be studied have been the **Museums and Collections**.

According to the Spanish Law of Historical Heritage 16/1985, of 26 June, **Museum** is defined as "the permanent institutions that acquire, preserve, study, communicate and exhibit, for the purposes of research, education and contemplation, groups and collections of historical, artistic, scientific and technical value or of any other cultural nature".

The **Collection** has been defined for the present statistics as "the group of cultural goods that, without meeting all of the requirements necessary to carry out the functions of Museums, is found exposed to the public with archival criteria and an established schedule, boasts a basic listing of its collection and has the means for preservation and holding".

It is important to note that, in general, we have excluded as study units in these statistics certain entities that that ICOM (International Council of Museums) considers to be Museums: the preservation institutes and exhibition galleries that depend on the libraries and archive centres; the institutions that exhibit living species, such as botanical gardens, zoos, aquariums, nurseries, etc.; natural reserves, planetariums and scientific centres. Nevertheless, in the case that the aforementioned entities have a Museum or Collection in the terms used in the present statistics, the archival institution has been included in them.

Territorial scope and reference periods

The Museums and Collections Statistics establishes as its territorial scope those Museums and Collections located within the national territory, regardless of the legal nature of their ownership and managing institution, with the specifics that are common to the Autonomous guidelines on the matter.

In general, the data in these statistics have a reference date of 31 December for each year, although in relation to certain variables, the reference period is the entire year.

Study variables

In the operating results, we have use the following classification variables: the type of Museum or Collection, the Autonomous Community or City in which it is located, and the ownership

TYPE

For the classification of the Museums and Collections, we have applied a typing based on the UNESCO classification. The categories of this classification correspond to the following definitions:

- *Fine Arts*: contain works of art mainly from Antiquity to the 19th century (architecture, sculpture, painting, drawing, engraving, and since 2002, sacred art).
- *Decorative Arts*: contain artistic works of a decorative nature. They are also known as applied or industrial arts.
- *Contemporary Art*: contains works of art created, for the most part, in the 20th and 21st centuries. It includes film and photography.
- *Museum-House*: A museum located in the birthplace or residence of a famous person.
- *Archaeological*: contains objects with historical and/or artistic value from archaeological surveys, excavations and discoveries. It includes numismatics, glyptics, epigraphy and others.
- *On-Site*: arises upon turning certain historical goods into museums (archaeological sites, monuments, on-site examples of the industrial past, etc.) in the place where they were originally created. (This includes Archaeological Interpretation Centres, whenever they have a collection with original funds, and excludes Nature Interpretation Centres).
- *Historical*: included in this category are those Museums and Collections that illustrate historical events or periods, personalities, military museums, etc.

- Natural science and Natural history: contains objects related to biology, botany, geology, zoology, anthropology, physics, palaeontology, mineralogy, ecology, etc.
- Science and Technology: contains objects that are representative of the evolution of history, science and technology, in addition to disseminating its own principles. It excludes planetariums and science centres, except those that have a Museum or Collection.
- Ethnography and Anthropology: dedicated to contemporary pre-industrial cultures or cultural elements, or those belonging to the recent past. Included in this category are popular folklore, art, tradition and custom museums.
- Specialised: specialising in a particular area of Cultural Heritage that is not covered in any other category. Until 2002, this included sacred art, which from then on has been considered a part of Fine Arts.
- General: Museum or Collection that can be identified by more than one of the aforementioned categories.
- Others: cannot be included in the categories above.

AUTONOMOUS COMMUNITY

The geographical classification corresponds to the location of the Museum or Collection, independently of the ownership or managing institution.

OWNERSHIP

This refers to the individual or legal entity that appears as the owner of the Museum or Collection. According to the owning body, Museums and Collections are classified as:

Public: General Administration of the State (Ministry of Culture; Ministry of Defence; Crown heritage; Other Ministries or Bodies of the General Administration of the State); Autonomous Administration (Council or Department of Culture, Other Council or Department, Other Bodies (Universities, etc.) ; Local Administration (Regional Council; Inter-island or Island council; Town council; Other institutions); Others (Public company; Public foundation; Several public bodies; Other public bodies).

Private: Ecclesiastical; Others (Association, Foundation, Society, Individual, Several private bodies, Other private bodies).

Mixed: Several public and private bodies.