

Harmonised Business Demography Year 2023

Main results

- 3,503,285 enterprises were economically active in Spain in 2023.
- 319,085 were created whereas 273,451 disappeared, which meant a net rate of 1.3%.
- 41.9% of the enterprises born in 2018 survived after five years of observation.

More information

- [Graphic annex](#)
- [Table annex](#)
- [Detailed results](#)

The *stock* of economically active enterprises operating in Spain over the year 2023 was 3,503,285. This number includes both enterprises that were economically active for the entire year and those that were economically active for part of the year.

62.6% of the *stock* belonged to enterprises in the *Rest of the services* sector, 20.0% to *Trade*, 12.1% to *Construction* and the remaining 5.4% to *Industry*.

In 2023, 319,085 enterprises were created and 273,451 disappeared. As a result, there was a positive net balance of 45,634 units.

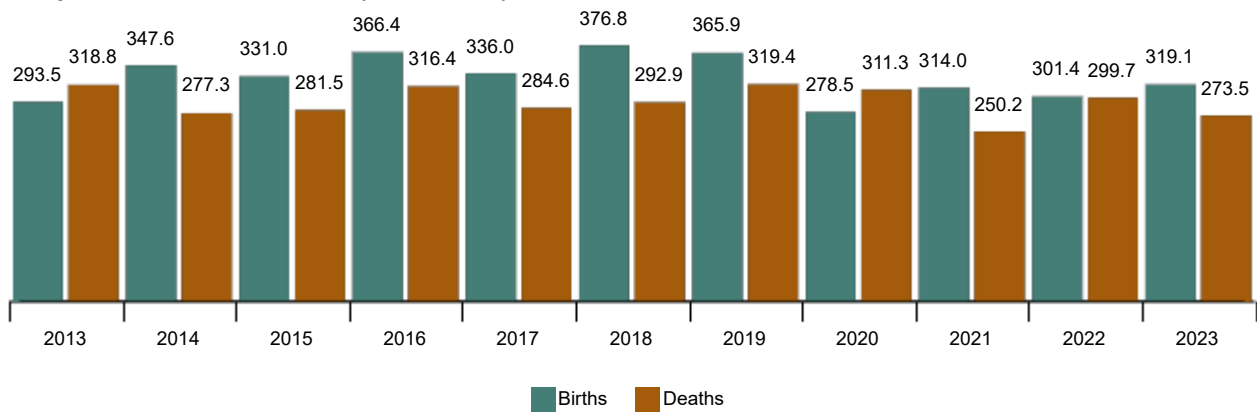
Stock, enterprise births and deaths by economic sectors. Year 2023

	Total	Industry	Construction	Trade	Rest of the services
Stock	3,503,285	187,759	422,244	700,417	2,192,865
Enterprise births	319,085	9,596	39,288	52,961	217,240
Enterprise deaths	273,451	10,358	32,414	58,497	172,182
Net balance	45,634	-762	6,874	-5,536	45,058
Birth rates (%)	9.1	5.1	9.3	7.6	9.9
Death rates (%)	7.8	5.5	7.7	8.4	7.9
Net rates (%)	1.3	-0.4	1.6	-0.8	2.1

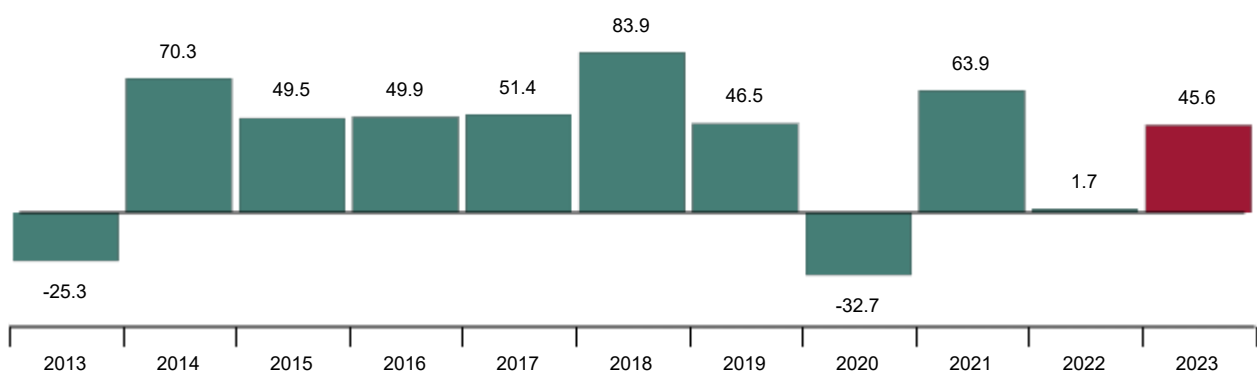
Enterprise birth rate (births as a percentage of the population of active enterprises) was 9.1%. On the other hand, enterprise death rate was 7.8%. As a result, the net rate was 1.3%.

By sector, *Rest of the services* showed the best demographic balance (2.1%), while *Trade* showed the worst (-0.8%).

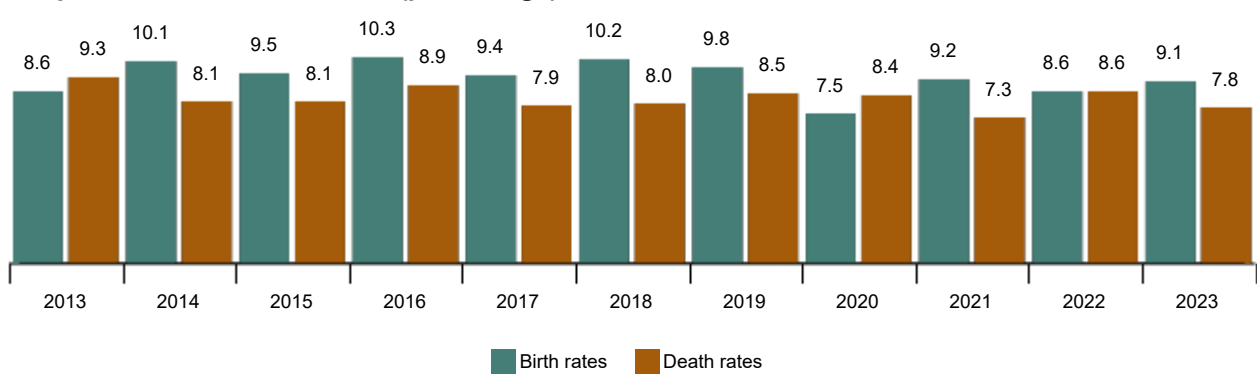
Enterprise births and deaths (thousands)



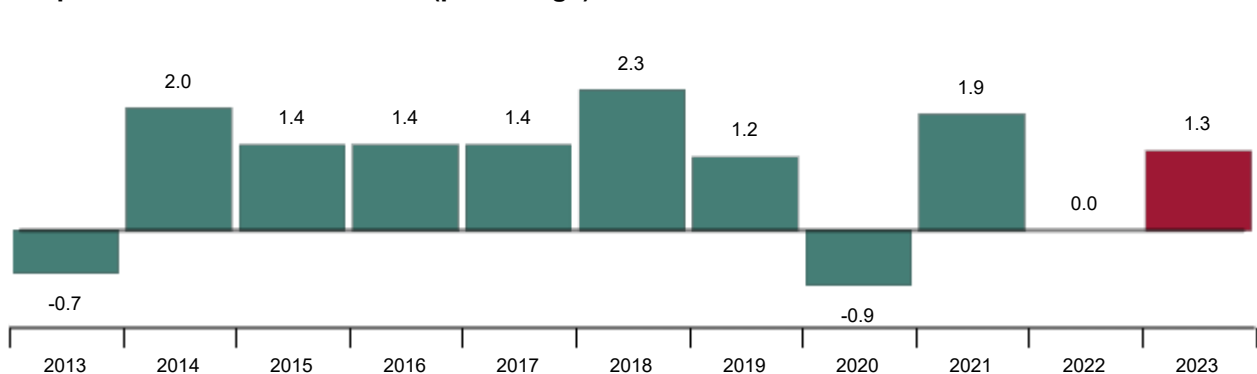
Net balance of enterprise births and deaths (thousands)



Enterprise birth and death rates (percentage)



Enterprise birth and death net rate (percentage)



Current press release at: <https://www.ine.es/dyngs/Prensa/en/DAE2023.htm>

Results by size class (number of employees)

In 2023, 98.6% of enterprise births and 98.3% of enterprise deaths had four or less employees.

Specifically, 76.1% of enterprise births and 71.2% of enterprise deaths had no employees.

Enterprises without employees showed the highest positive difference between enterprise births and deaths, reaching a net rate of 2.5%. Enterprises with one to four employees showed the highest negative difference, reaching a net rate of -0.2%.

Stock, enterprise births and deaths by size class. Year 2023

	Total	Without employees	1 to 4 employees	5 to 9 employees	10 or more employees
Stock	3,503,285	1,905,052	1,235,149	189,578	173,506
Enterprise births	319,085	242,673	72,089	3,301	1,022
Enterprise deaths	273,451	194,646	74,230	3,449	1,126
Net balance	45,634	48,027	-2,141	-148	-104
Birth rates (%)	9.1	12.7	5.8	1.7	0.6
Death rates (%)	7.8	10.2	6.0	1.8	0.6
Net rates (%)	1.3	2.5	-0.2	-0.1	-0.1

Survivals of enterprise births

The first year of life is when there is the highest fall of enterprise units, with survival rates of 78.5% or lower.

It can be highlighted that enterprises that make up the populations of births in 2018 and 2019 are reduced to less than half after four years.

The following data table has been obtained from a time monitoring of enterprises born in a given year. Survival indicators have been calculated for a maximum period of five years.

Survivals of enterprises born from 2018 (percentage)

Year of birth	Year observed					
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
2018	100.0	76.9	63.5	55.3	47.5	41.9
2019		100.0	78.5	65.8	54.9	47.6
2020			100.0	77.8	63.0	53.6
2021				100.0	77.3	62.8
2022					100.0	77.3

Disappearances of enterprises in the first years of life

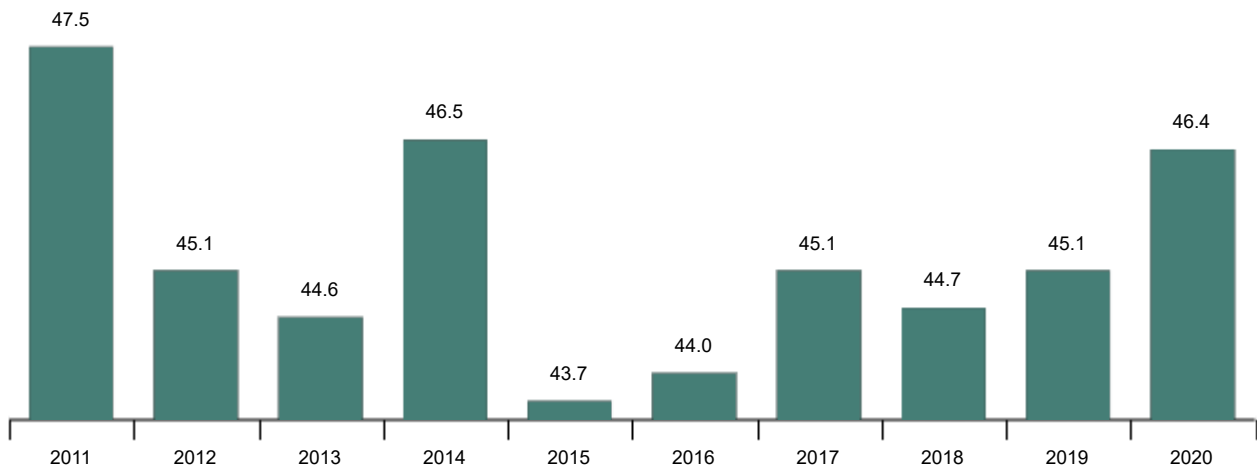
Analysing the loss of members of different cohorts of enterprises in more detail, the following data table shows disappearances of enterprises in their first three years of life, taking as a reference the cohorts of enterprises born in 12 consecutive years.

Disappearances of enterprises in the first three years of life (percentage)

Cohorts	1st year of life	2nd year of life	3rd year of life	Accumulated
2022	22.7			
2021	22.7	14.5		
2020	22.2	14.8	9.4	46.4
2019	21.5	12.7	10.9	45.1
2018	23.1	13.4	8.2	44.7
2017	24.5	12.4	8.2	45.1
2016	23.5	12.4	8.1	44.0
2015	22.7	12.3	8.7	43.7
2014	23.5	14.2	8.8	46.5
2013	22.6	12.3	9.8	44.6
2012	24.0	12.5	8.5	45.1
2011	24.2	14.0	9.4	47.5
Average	23.1	13.2	9.0	45.3

As regards the accumulated disappearances in the first three years of enterprises' life, it can be pointed out that mortality reached the highest level in 2011.

Accumulated disappearances of enterprises in the first three years of life, by year of birth (percentage)



Current press release at: <https://www.ine.es/dyngs/Prensa/en/DAE2023.htm>

Results by autonomous communities and cities

Regarding the territory where enterprises had their head offices, Illes Balears (10.8%), the autonomous city of Melilla (10.4%) and Comunitat Valenciana (10.2%) showed the highest birth rates in 2023.

On the other hand, the lowest rates happened in Castilla y León, Comunidad Foral de Navarra and La Rioja (6.8% in all of them).

The highest death rates were recorded in the autonomous cities of Melilla (10.1%) and Ceuta (9.7%) and in Canarias (8.5%) while the lowest were recorded in Cantabria and Castilla y León (6.7% in both) and in La Rioja (6.8%).

Stock, enterprise births and deaths by autonomous communities and cities. Year 2023

	Stock	Births	Deaths	Net balance	Birth rates (%)	Death rates (%)	Net rates (%)
NATIONAL TOTAL	3,503,285	319,085	273,451	45,634	9.1	7.8	1.3
Andalucía	574,769	56,776	47,783	8,993	9.9	8.3	1.6
Aragón	88,965	6,630	6,236	394	7.5	7.0	0.4
Asturias, Principado de	68,999	5,127	5,046	81	7.4	7.3	0.1
Balears, Illes	109,660	11,865	9,104	2,761	10.8	8.3	2.5
Canarias	154,861	15,494	13,210	2,284	10.0	8.5	1.5
Cantabria	40,384	3,014	2,707	307	7.5	6.7	0.8
Castilla y León	154,740	10,580	10,323	257	6.8	6.7	0.2
Castilla - La Mancha	132,398	10,759	10,128	631	8.1	7.6	0.5
Cataluña	648,982	60,412	51,120	9,292	9.3	7.9	1.4
Comunitat Valenciana	391,856	40,059	32,190	7,869	10.2	8.2	2.0
Extremadura	67,910	5,295	4,989	306	7.8	7.3	0.5
Galicia	197,228	14,448	13,671	777	7.3	6.9	0.4
Madrid, Comunidad de	553,293	52,854	42,764	10,090	9.6	7.7	1.8
Murcia, Región de	99,842	9,377	8,030	1,347	9.4	8.0	1.3
Navarra, Comunidad Foral de	43,783	2,987	3,423	-436	6.8	7.8	-1.0
País Vasco	144,812	11,094	10,385	709	7.7	7.2	0.5
Rioja, La	22,502	1,532	1,520	12	6.8	6.8	0.1
Ceuta	3,550	287	344	-57	8.1	9.7	-1.6
Melilla	4,751	495	478	17	10.4	10.1	0.4

It should be pointed out that the stock of enterprises is subject to changes that are not completely determined by demographic events. Phenomena of entry/exit of units into/from the coverage of economic activities, territorial movements or restructurings in enterprise groups should also be considered.

Data updating and revisions

There is no data revision, although data relative to enterprise deaths are provisional, since those deaths are considered definitive after two years from the reference period. It is necessary to exclude enterprises that reactivate in the two years following the year in which they die.

Data are estimated by taking enterprise deaths detected in 2023 and that have not been reactivated in 2024. On that base population, a random exclusion of a small percentage of units is performed, in accordance with the experience of previous years on reactivations in the second year. The results show irrelevant differences between final and provisional data.

Data presented here use the same adapted [enterprise concept](#) which was implemented for the reference year 2018. All results of this operation are available on [INEBase](#).

Methodological Note

Harmonised Business Demography provides aggregated information regarding the population of enterprises located in the national territory, considering aspects linked to business dynamism and applying a methodology as agreed within the scope of the European Union.

The delimitation of populations of interest is carried out by means of an ordered set of procedures varying in nature, designed in accordance with the harmonised methodology principles. Basically, the work is geared towards identifying the following aggregates:

- Stock of enterprises: Set of units that have been economically active during all or part of the reference year.
- Enterprise births: Set of units that, throughout the reference year, have created a combination of new production factors.
- Enterprise deaths: Set of units that, throughout the reference year, have dissolved all of their production factors.
- Surviving enterprises: Restricted to each cohort of births, this corresponds to the set of units that continue to be economically active in each of the five years following that of birth.


Business Demography analysis is not limited to just quantifying flows obtained during the processes of updating the Statistical Business Register (see *CBR flows* disseminated in the statistical operation *Statistical Use of the CBR*), since although the analysis of movements from administrative sources provides an initial preview of units' renewal processes, the statistical work to be carried out for obtaining Business Demographic Indicators demands an additional effort, adding value to administrative information.

Indicators proposed in the methodology quantify the relative relevance of events of creation and destruction of enterprises within the Spanish entrepreneurial frame. The survival event is similar, but takes as reference the population of enterprise births detected in the initial observation period.

More information on the [methodology](#) and the [standardised methodological report](#).

INE statistics are produced in accordance with the Code of Good Practice for European Statistics. More information on [Quality at INE](#) and [Code of Best Practices](#).

For further information see [INEbase](#)

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

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