

## Methodological description

In this section, information about the territorial distribution and by nationality of the surnames of people living in Spain is provided.

The recount of the surnames is performed using the information contained in the *Continuous Register Statistics* file at January 01 of each year, this file being derived from the INE Register database after obtaining the proposal of the official population figures. The Register database is updated from the variations files sent by the different municipalities, once the INE has carried out the coordination tasks among the different municipal registers according to the current legislation.

Additional statistical cleansing is applied to the exploitation file so that all published data values are valid. Cleansing and standardization of surnames are also made in order to get a greater homogeneity of the information, eliminating accents and allowing as valid characters the apostrophe and the cedilla, but not the diaeresis.

The publication is annually updated in May with the available data from the last *Continuous Register Statistics*.

## Presentation of results

The results may be queried in the form of *Excel tables*, or by using the *software application* designed for this purpose that shows result tables and maps. In either case, a column with results corresponding to the first surname is shown, another with the second surname, and a third one with both surnames, including all the people with each surname in that order independently of the value of the other. Therefore, people with two similar surnames are also accounted in the first two columns.

### *Excel tables*

Tables in Excel format with the most frequent surnames are presented: 100 for the overall national territory, 50 for each province of residence and 20 for each nationality. It is also possible to consult a list with all the surnames of people resident in Spain with a frequency higher than 20 for the first surname.

### *Application*

In order to facilitate the consultation, a tool has been designed that allows choosing a surname and seeing how many persons have that surname (whether it is the first, second or both surnames), according to the province of residence or birth and according to nationality. This also shows the percentage (as per thousand) that this surname represents over the total population of the group to which it refers.

The criterion for this application is to facilitate information on surnames which frequency is higher than 5 inhabitants in the national total, with respect to the first or the second surname. Results for those provinces or nationalities whose frequency is equal or less than 5 are not displayed. For this reason, the total frequency at a national level for some surnames may not be equal to the sum of the data shown by province. In total, information with more than 180,000 surnames is provided.

### **Use of the application for one surname frequency. Recommendations for making a selection**

**Province of residence / birth:** the total, one province, several or all may be selected. If you select two or more provinces, a table and a map will appear, with the provinces coloured in different shades, according to the frequency of the surname. By clicking on or positioning the cursor over each province, the corresponding frequency data is displayed (absolute value and as per thousand).

**Nationality:** one, several or all may be selected. Data are displayed only in table format.

**Surname:** they may be written in upper or lower case, without using abbreviations and removing accents, diaereses, hyphens and dots.

Both simple and compound surnames may be looked up. In the case of compound surnames, it is not necessary to indicate separating hyphens, although it is necessary to indicate any particles in case there are any. Those surnames that differ by a particle are considered to be different. For example, the surname “DE LA TORRE” is considered different to “TORRE”. The only exception to this rule are the joining particles “Y” and “I”, which on occasions are used to separate the first surname from the second surname. Thus, for example, no results will be returned for the surname “Y GARCIA” since its frequency will have been included within the surname “GARCIA”.

**List of all surnames:** If you leave the Surname box empty and select a single value in the other variables (province of residence, province of birth, or country of nationality), a list will appear with the 5,000 most frequent surnames for the scope chosen, sorted in descending order by frequency of the first surname.

**Error messages:** when an incorrect selection is made or a required option is left unmarked, error messages will appear, as an alert.

If the chosen criteria are properly applied and no data is shown, the following message will appear:

*There are no inhabitants with the surname you have searched for, nor is its frequency less than 5 for the national total or for the selected province/nationality*

In this case it would be convenient to check that you have written the name correctly, and that you have followed the recommendations indicated for this variable.