

Most Frequent Names

Methodological Description

This section provides information on the territorial distribution by nationality and decade of birth of the names of individuals residing in Spain.

The names are counted based on the information contained in the *Population Census* as of 1 January of each year. The file also undergoes additional statistical filtering so that all disseminated variables have valid values, and the names are also filtered and standardised in order to achieve greater uniformity in the information, eliminating accents and allowing apostrophes and cedilla as valid characters, but not umlauts.

The publication is updated annually in May with the data available from the latest *Population Census*.

Results Presentation

The results can be consulted in *Excel tables* or through an *application* designed for this purpose, which shows tables with results, maps and graphs. In each of these two cases, a column is provided with the number of persons bearing the chosen name and, depending on the chosen criteria, the percentage (per thousand) of the total population of the referred group or the average age of the persons bearing that name.

Excel Tables

The most frequent names are presented in Excel tables: 100 names for the entire national territory, 50 for each province of residence, 50 for each decade of birth and 20 for each nationality. It is also possible to consult a list with the names of people residing in Spain with a frequency equal to or greater than 20.

Application

The application is designed to facilitate the query process by allowing users to select a name and see the number of people with that name, according to the province of residence, decade and province of birth, and nationality. Additionally, it shows the percentage (per thousand) that this name represents of the total population of the referred group, as well as the average age of the people who have this name.

This application provides information on names with a national frequency of more than 20 individuals. Results are not displayed for provinces, decades, or nationalities where the frequency is less than 5. For this reason, the total national frequency for some names may not equal the sum of the frequencies shown for the provinces. In total, information is provided for less than 28,000 names for each gender.

Using the application for name frequency. Recommendations on selecting variables

Province of residence/birth: you can select the total, one province, several or all. If two or more provinces are selected, a table and a map will display the provinces coloured with different intensity, according to the frequency of the name. By clicking or hovering the cursor over each province, the corresponding frequency data (in percentages per thousand) will be displayed.

Decade of birth: You can select one, several, or all. When two or more decades are selected, in addition to the table, a graph with the change in the frequency of the name in absolute numbers and another in percentages will be displayed. When the cursor is positioned on the trend line, the frequency data will be displayed.

Nationality: You can select one, several, or all nationalities. The data will be displayed only in table format.

Gender: You must select one of the two options.

Name: Enter names in uppercase or lowercase without using abbreviations, accents, diaeresis, hyphens, or periods.

Both simple and compound names can be consulted. For compound names, particles such as “de,” “del,” “de la,” “de las,” and “de los” are not considered. In these cases, names that differ in a particle are considered to be the same. *For example, “MARIA DEL CARMEN” and “MARIA CARMEN” will yield the same results.*

The queries display results for the exact name, whether simple or compound. *For example, if you search for the name MARIA, the data will refer to the number of people with exactly that name as a simple name, without including results for compound names such as MARIA ANGELES or MARIA ISABEL.*

List with all names: if the *Name* box is left empty and a single value is selected in the other variables (province of residence, province of birth, decade of birth or country of nationality), a list will be displayed with the 5,000 most frequent names for the chosen category, sorted in descending order of frequency.

Error messages: when an incorrect selection is made or a required option is left unchecked, error messages will be displayed notifying this issue.

If the chosen criteria are correctly applied and no data is displayed, the message will appear:

No residents exist with the queried name, or its frequency is lower than 20 for the entire nation (or 5 for the selected province/nationality)

In this case, it would be advisable to verify that the spelling of the name is correct and that the recommendations provided for this variable have been followed.