

What are the Short-Term Population Projections?

The Short-Term Population Projection for Spain compiled by the INE constitutes a statistical simulation of the demographic size and structure of the population residing in Spain, its Autonomous Communities and provinces during the forthcoming 10 years, should the currently observed demographic trends and behaviour continue. In this way, these results basically show the effect that would be had, in the nearest future, by the recently observed evolution of fertility, mortality and migration in each one of these territories.

This statistical operation is carried out annually, which enables the constant updating of its results to the most recent demographic and socio-economic evolution.

Why is it necessary to compile a Short-Term Population Projection regularly?

The demand for permanently updated, short-term population projections has increased enormously in recent years, both by bodies in the Spanish administration that are related to economic forecasts, and by services (health, education, social protection, etc.) or by the academic and research area.

Long-term population projections (between a fifty and eighty year time horizon) intend to cover large structural demographic changes and provide a long-term image. As these trends do not change quickly, they are usually updated every so often (between three and six years). Due to their methodology, they do not adapt to short-term monitoring, and the first years they become quickly outdated, and therefore, users who require simulations for a closer time horizon find themselves without the conveniently updated information they need. In addition, the importance of international migrations makes more frequent updating increasingly necessary.

In turn, short-term projections can include methodological developments that are more adapted to short-term extrapolations, and that enable bearing in mind the most recent evolution of the economic and social factors in which the evolution of the population is developed.

How is the Short-Term Population Projection carried out?

The Short-Term Population Projection is carried out by applying the *component method*, where starting with the Population Now Cast at 1 January of the current year, and with the evolution hypothesis of each one of the basic demographic components, the population is obtained for each year of the projection period. Such hypotheses basically imply an extrapolation, to the next ten years, of the demographic trends and behaviour currently observed.

The projection of the evolution parameters for fertility and mortality is carried out using the information available on final and preview results of the Vital Statistics, whereas for establishing the migratory movements for the period, we use the latest available estimates deduced from the movements of the Municipal Register of Inhabitants and other supporting statistical sources.

In any case, the objective is a flexible methodological approach that will adapt to the availability of information and developments that may arise at any time, subject to open debate and cooperative with the main producers and users of this type of work in the statistical system.

For further information, see the [project](#) of this statistical operation and the [methodology](#) of the latest edition thereof.

What is the relationship between the Population Now Cast, the Short-Term Projection and the Long-Term Projection?

The Short-Term and Long-Term Population Projections will use as the starting population the Population Now Cast at 1 January of the current year. In the years in which the Long-Term Projection is updated, the Short-Term Projection will logically be the equivalent of the first time period thereof, and therefore, all of the figures will coincide during said period. The remaining years, only the Short-Term Projection will be updated, in such a way that the two may temporarily be inconsistent. For further information, see the [Informative note on the population figures in the National Statistical System](#), which also explains the relationship between the Population Now Cast and the projections.

What is the relationship between the Spanish projections that the INE compiles and those of other organisations?

Numerous international organisations focus solely on population projections, or carry them out as a parameter within other more general purposes. Those with the longest tradition are the United Nations. The INE supplies the information on Spain to all of them, but these organisations carry out their hypotheses and publish their results independently. Eurostat carries out different long-term projection exercises by Commission mandate, and the statistical offices of the Member States participate when supplying the information on starting populations and demographic flows, as well as in methodological discussions. This work is normally updated every three or four years. In any case, the final decisions on methodology and future parameters are the responsibility of Eurostat, and as a result, differences are produced between the INE and other statistical offices of other countries, with no standardisation process thereof expected for the moment within the European scope.