

Statistics on the Register of the Spanish Population Resident Abroad (PERE)

Methodology

Register of the Spanish Population Resident Abroad. Brief description of its content, formation and update.

The Register of the Spanish Population Resident Abroad (PERE in its Spanish initials) contains the registrations of persons who are Spanish nationals and live habitually outside Spain, whether or not this is their only nationality.

The PERE is constituted with the existing data from the Enrolment Register each Consular Post or Consular Section of Spain's Diplomatic Missions.

For this purpose, Royal Decree 991/2024 of 1 October, on the registration of persons of Spanish nationality in the Enrolment Registers of Consular Posts abroad, states:

Article 1. Consular Enrolment Register

- 1. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation, through the Spanish Consular Posts located abroad, shall keep an Enrolment Register of Spanish nationals living in their respective consular districts, whether they are habitual residents or are there temporarily. Consular Posts shall be understood to mean Consulates General, Consulates and Consular Sections of Diplomatic Missions*
- 2. The Consular Enrolment Register shall include two categories of registered persons: residents and non-residents.*
- 3. Persons of Spanish nationality who habitually reside in the consular demarcation and those who transfer their habitual residence there shall be considered residents. Persons registered as residents will be entered in the PERE, and those of legal age will be registered in the corresponding CERA [Censo de Residentes Ausentes en el Extranjero (Census of Residents Temporarily Abroad)].*
- 4. Those who, holding Spanish nationality, are in a consular district on a temporary basis, without intending to establish their habitual residence there, may register as non-residents in the Consular Enrolment Register, remaining in the register and electoral rolls of the Spanish municipality of origin or in the PERE and CERA corresponding to the Consular Post where they have their habitual residence.*
- 5. The Consular Enrolment Register shall grant each registered person, resident or non-resident, a Central Consular Identification Number, after consultation with the Directorate General of Police of the Ministry of the Interior, which shall be a unique and permanent identification code or number. This number shall have the same format as the number used for the National Identity Card (DNI). It will be based on the DNI number, for those who already have one, or, if not, it will be taken from the Personal Code of the registration made in the Civil Registry provided by DICIREG.*

However, a temporary identification number may be assigned to Spanish national for whose identity there are no biometric records or where necessary during the period of implementation of the new registration model. Once the identity of such persons is verified through new biometric records or the implementation process is completed, they will be issued with the permanent Central Consular Identification Number mentioned above.

The Central Consular Identification Number alone shall have no identifying value.

6. *The Enrolment Register and the data it contains shall constitute an instrument of the Consular Posts to provide effective consular protection and assistance to Spanish nationals abroad.*

Article 2. Obligation to register

1. *Persons of Spanish nationality who habitually reside in the consular district and those who transfer their habitual residence there must register in the Enrolment Register of the Consular Post corresponding to the district where they are located.*
2. *Without prejudice to the rights that correspond to the person with parental authority with regard to single-parent families, in the case of unemancipated minors, the application must be submitted by those who have parental authority and reside with the minor in the corresponding demarcation or by the person exercising guardianship.*

Where both parents have parental authority, the application for registration of an unemancipated minor by only one parent can only be made with the consent of the other parent or with court authorisation. Exceptionally, when the lack of enrolment may affect the rights of the minor, it may be done by means of an affidavit accrediting this situation, as well as the manifest impossibility of obtaining the consent of the other parent. If available, the court decision on custody and guardianship must also be provided.

In cases of joint custody, the mutual agreement of both parents or a judicial authorisation shall always be required.

3. *Persons with disabilities who require support with representative functions to exercise their legal capacity shall be carried out by those who perform these support measures, based on Law 8/2021 of 2 June, which reforms civil and procedural legislation for the support of persons with disabilities in the exercise of their legal capacity, which must be accredited by means of the corresponding authorisation or judicial resolution.*
4. *Not being registered in the Consular Enrolment Register does not, under any circumstances, affect the right to benefit from consular assistance and protection that corresponds to all persons of Spanish nationality abroad, who may submit a request for consular assistance or protection even without being registered, and the competent Consular Post must make the appropriate entry in the Consular Enrolment Register, once the corresponding file has been initiated.*

The data and the procedures for forming and updating the PERE are developed in Articles 93 to 106 of Royal Decree 2612/1996 of 20 December, on the Regulation of Population and Territorial Demarcation of Local Entities.

Article 97 establishes that Consular Posts and Sections shall send the Instituto Nacional de Estadística [National Statistics Institute], via the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, the data from the enrolment registers so that said Institute may compile and maintain a central file of Spanish nationals residing abroad, **hereinafter the PERE central file**, while Articles 99 and 100 establish monthly data exchanges between the two bodies to enable updates of the entries in the enrolment registers and the municipal registers, derived from the transfer of residence of Spanish citizens from abroad to Spain and from Spain abroad, respectively.

The registration in the central PERE file contains the following mandatory data:

- Name and surname(s).
- Sex.
- Date and place of birth.
- National identity card or passport numbers.
- School or academic certificate or diploma held.
- Domicile in the country of residence.
- Municipality of registration in Spain for electoral purposes.

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The population under study is the Spanish population residing abroad, which comprises all persons of Spanish nationality, whether or not this is their only nationality, registered as usual residents in the Enrolment Register of the Consular Post corresponding to their residence, whose registration has been communicated to the INE through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation, and added to the central PERE file.

The reference date of the statistics is 1 January of each year, and incorporates the variations occurring in the source registers up to the penultimate working day of the previous year, and processed in the PERE central file up to the last day of the first month of the reference year.

New entries correspond to registrations made in the year prior to the reference year, for any of the possible causes (birth, nationalisation, omission and emigration from Spain to a foreign country).

The statistical exploitation of the PERE central file only permits access to the distribution of those registered and of the new entries by their variables, on the reference date, without being able to offer the causes of the variations with respect to the previous year.

The variables included in the PERE central file that have statistical use are: Country of residence, province and municipality of registration for electoral purposes, sex, date and place of birth.

The following information is disseminated annually:

- Population by country of residence, sex and age groups (five-yearly).
- Population by country of residence (with 1000 or more residents), province of registration (grouped by Autonomous Community), sex and age (large groups).
- Population by municipality of registration and sex.
- Population by country of residence, sex and place of birth (Spain, country of residence, other countries).

- Population by country of residence (with 1000 or more residents), province of registration (grouped by Autonomous Community), sex and place of birth (province of registration, other province, foreign).
- For those born in Spain: Population by country of residence (with 1000 or more residents), province of birth (grouped by Autonomous Community), sex and age (large groups).
- Population by province of registration and age groups (five-yearly).

In addition, since the statistics as of 1 January 2014, similar information on new entries is disseminated.

- New registrations by country of residence (with 1000 or more residents), province of registration (grouped by Autonomous Community), sex and age (large groups).
- New registrations by country of residence, sex and place of birth (Spain, country of residence, other countries).
- New registrations by country of residence (with 1000 or more residents), province of registration (grouped by autonomous community), sex and place of birth (province of registration, other province, foreign).
- New registrations of births in Spain by country of residence (with 1000 or more residents), province of birth (grouped by Autonomous Community), sex and age (large groups).