

Population census. 1 January 2023 First results

Main results

- The census puts Spain's population figure at 48,085,361 inhabitants as at 1 January 2023, with a growth of almost 600,000 people in one year.
- 12.7% of the population had foreign nationality and 17.1% were born outside Spain.
- The largest increases during 2022 were among citizens of Colombia (142,391 more), Ukraine (83,401 more) and Venezuela (64,498).
- Torrevieja, Estepona and Benidorm were the cities with the greatest relative population growth in 2022.

The INE begins today the publication of the annual population censuses, which will offer in December of each year the official figures of the resident population in Spain on 1 January in great territorial detail (up to the census section), together with its demographic characteristics.

Thanks to these new censuses, it will be possible to have updated information every year, in the case of the population, and every three or four years in the case of households, instead of every 10, as was the case with the decennial censuses that have been carried out until now. In addition, these new annual censuses are prepared with information collected entirely from official public administration records, without the need to survey any household.

In this first edition, population data as of 1 January 2022 and 2023 are published together. In the coming months, the demographic information will be completed with variables related to education and employment, among others.

Population as of 1 January

The resident population in Spain on 1 January 2023 stood at 48,085,361 inhabitants, 598,634 more people than on the same date in 2022 (47,486,727), an increase of 1.26%.

Of this total, 41,995,741 were of Spanish nationality (87.3%) and 6,089,620 foreign nationality (12.7%), which was 10.5% more foreign nationals than the previous year.

82.9% of the population were born in Spain and 17.1% were born abroad.

The relative proportion of the population over 64 years of age was 20.1%. This meant that the dependency ratio of the over-64s, which is the ratio between the population aged over 64 and the population aged 16 to 64 –the ages considered to be active– stood at 0.31.

Population resident in Spain as at 1 January

		Census 2023	Census 2022	Census 2021	Variation 2022		Variation 2021	
					Absolute	Relative (%)	Absolute	Relative (%)
TOTAL		48,085,361	47,486,727	47,400,798	598,634	1.26	85,929	0.18
Sex	Men	23,565,593	23,288,747	23,248,611	276,846	1.19	40,136	0.17
	Women	24,519,768	24,197,980	24,152,187	321,788	1.33	45,793	0.19
Age	Less than 16 years	7,054,555	7,095,180	7,209,005	-40,625	-0.57	-113,825	-1.58
	From 16 to 64 years	31,343,030	30,909,745	30,880,309	433,285	1.40	29,436	0.10
	More than 64 years	9,687,776	9,481,802	9,311,484	205,974	2.17	170,318	1.83
Citizenship	Spanish	41,995,741	41,977,681	41,998,096	18,060	0.04	-20,415	-0.05
	Foreigner	6,089,620	5,509,046	5,402,702	580,574	10.54	106,344	1.97
Country of birth	Spain	39,881,155	40,018,611	40,146,001	-137,456	-0.34	-127,390	-0.32
	Foreign	8,204,206	7,468,116	7,254,797	736,090	9.86	213,319	2.94

Foreign population by nationality

The most numerous foreign nationals as at 1 January 2023 were Moroccans (893,953), Romanians (629,755) and Colombians (453,911).

Among the main nationalities, the largest increases during 2022 were among citizens of Colombia (142,391 more), Ukraine (83,401 more) and Venezuela (64,498). The largest decreases were among those from Romania (-9,742), the United Kingdom (-7,328) and Bulgaria (-3,061).

In relative terms, and among the nationalities with the highest number of foreigners, the greatest population increases were registered among the citizens of Ukraine (75.9%), Colombia (45.7%) and Peru (44.9%).

In turn, Bulgaria (-2.6%), the United Kingdom (-2.5%) and Romania (-1.5%) recorded the largest decreases.

Foreign population as at 1 January. Main nationalities

	2023		2022		Variation	
	Number of persons	% of total foreigners	Number of persons	% of total foreigners	Absolute	Relative (%)
Morocco	893,953	14.7	866,711	15.7	27,242.0	3.1
Romania	629,755	10.3	639,497	11.6	-9,742	-1.5
Colombia	453,911	7.5	311,520	5.7	142,391	45.7
Italy	301,791	5.0	275,188	5.0	26,603	9.7
United Kingdom	284,037	4.7	291,365	5.3	-7,328	-2.5
Venezuela	278,159	4.6	213,661	3.9	64,498	30.2
China	219,929	3.6	217,119	3.9	2,810	1.3
Ukraine	193,238	3.2	109,837	2.0	83,401	75.9
Peru	172,045	2.8	118,728	2.2	53,317	44.9
Honduras	156,969	2.6	133,335	2.4	23,634	17.7
Germany	125,792	2.1	120,502	2.2	5,290	4.4
France	120,771	2.0	116,451	2.1	4,320	3.7
Ecuador	120,034	2.0	118,126	2.1	1,908	1.6
Argentina	119,252	2.0	96,054	1.7	23,198	24.2
Bulgaria	115,222	1.9	118,283	2.1	-3,061	-2.6
Pakistan	103,683	1.7	97,939	1.8	5,744	5.9
Portugal	103,656	1.7	101,529	1.8	2,127	2.1
Paraguay	97,650	1.6	82,696	1.5	14,954	18.1
Brazil	97,352	1.6	88,667	1.6	8,685	9.8
Russian Federation	94,466	1.6	80,712	1.5	13,754	17.0

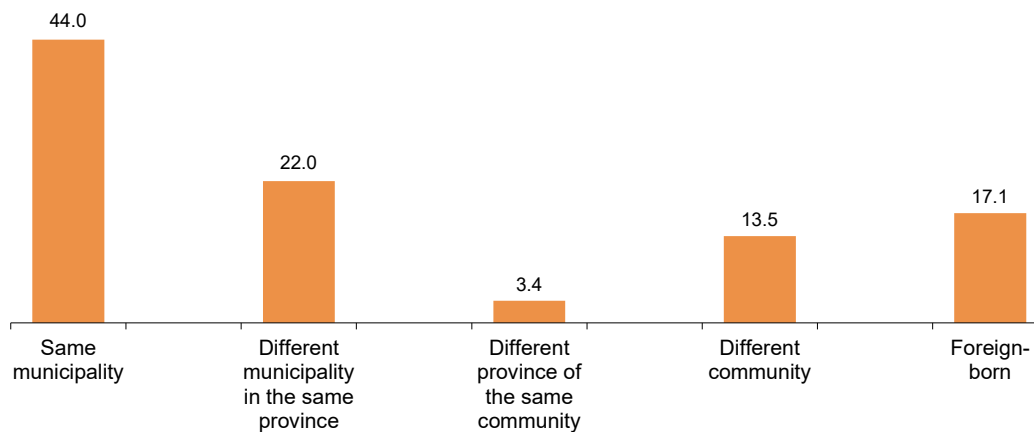
Population by place of birth

As of 1 January 2023, 44.0% of the population resided in the same municipality in which they were born and 22.0% in another municipality in the same province. The percentage of foreign-born people reached 17.1% (on the same date in 2022 it was 15.7%).

Among those born abroad, 12.5% (more than one million) were born in Morocco, 8.7% in Colombia and 6.6% in Romania.

Relationship between place of birth and residence. 1 January 2023

Percentage



Population by autonomous communities and provinces

During 2022, the population increased almost across the board in all autonomous communities, except in Extremadura, where it fell by 2,502 people.

The largest increases occurred in Cataluña (140,140 more people), Comunidad de Madrid (128,649 more) and Comunitat Valenciana (108,079 more).

In relative terms, the largest population increases were in the Comunitat Valenciana (2.1%), Illes Balears and the Comunidad de Madrid (1.9% in both).

All but seven provinces saw their population increase over the past year. Those that grew the most were Alicante/Alacant (2.5%), Guadalajara (2.5%) and Girona (2.3%).

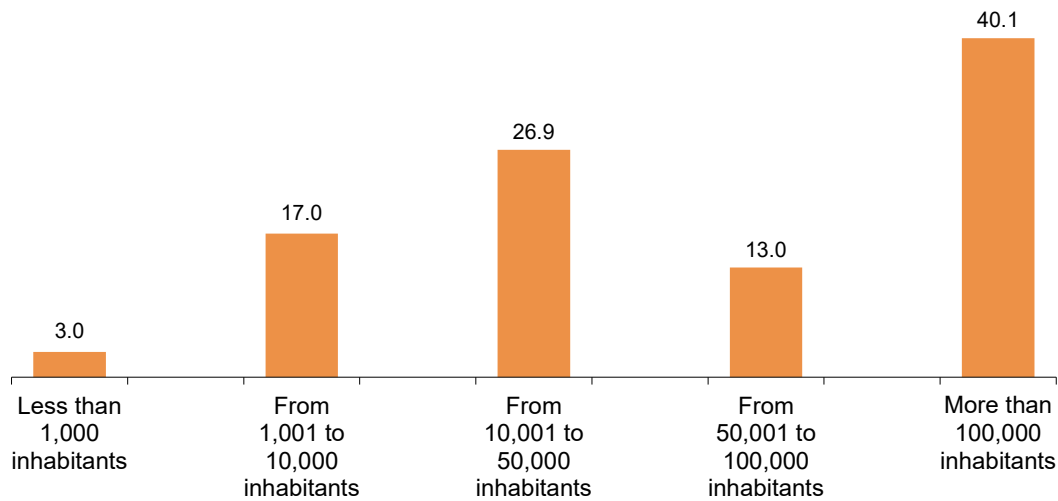
In contrast, the largest decreases were recorded in the provinces of Jaen (-0.6%), Zamora (-0.6%) and Badajoz (-0.3%).

Population by municipalities

In 2023, 40.1% of the population resided in municipalities with more than 100,000 inhabitants and 20.0% in municipalities with fewer than 10,000 inhabitants. Only 3.0% of the population lived in municipalities with fewer than 1,000 inhabitants.

Population by size of municipality as at 1 January 2023

Percentage



In 4,725 of the 8,131 municipalities existing on 1 January 2023 (41.9% of the total), the population increased or remained the same during 2022.

If we consider the main cities, the largest population increases during 2022 in relative terms occurred in Torrevieja (6.8%), Estepona (4.6%) and Benidorm (4.3%).

In contrast, the largest decreases were recorded in Linares (-1.1%), Cádiz (-1.1%) and Puertollano (-0.8%).

Main cities by relative population growth in 2022

Percentage

Municipality	Higher growth	Municipality	Lower growth
Torrevieja (Alicante/Alacant)	6.8	Linares (Jaén)	-1.1
Estepona (Málaga)	4.6	Cádiz (Cádiz)	-1.1
Benidorm (Alicante/Alacant)	4.3	Puertollano (Ciudad Real)	-0.8
Marbella (Málaga)	3.9	Coslada (Madrid)	-0.5
Benalmádena (Málaga)	3.8	Fuenlabrada (Madrid)	-0.5
Rivas-Vaciamadrid (Madrid)	3.5	Avilés (Asturias)	-0.4
Hospitalet de Llobregat, L' (Barcelona)	3.5	Ferrol(Coruña, A)	-0.4
Arona (Santa Cruz de Tenerife)	3.4	Zamora (Zamora)	-0.4
Colmenar Viejo (Madrid)	3.3	Getxo (Bizkaia)	-0.3
Boadilla del Monte (Madrid)	3.2	Cuenca (Cuenca)	-0.2

Data Review and Update

The data are definitive. All results are available on INEBase:

https://www.ine.es/dyngs/INEbase/en/operacion.htm?c=Estadistica_C&cid=1254736176992&menu=resultados&idp=1254735572981

Methodological note

The 2021 Population and Housing Census was the last of the ten-year censuses in Spain and the first to be carried out entirely from official public administration records, without surveying any households. This new methodology makes it possible to have census information available every year, in the case of the population, and every three or four years in the case of households.

The first results of the Population Census will be published in December of each year and will provide the official figures and the basic demographic characteristics of the population resident in Spain on 1 January of the same year.

These figures will be incorporated as final in the next publication of the Continuous Population Statistics (in February of the year following the census publication), which provides provisional estimates of the population further in advance.

Subsequently, the demographic information will be completed with variables related to education and employment, such as the relationship with economic activity (active, employed, unemployed, etc.), educational level and studies in progress, among others.

Type of operation: Statistics with an annual periodicity, based on administrative data.

Population scope: population resident in Spain, with the population resident in a specific geographical area being understood to be those persons who, on the reference date, have established their habitual residence therein.

Geographical scope: national, autonomous communities and cities, provinces and islands, municipalities, districts and census sections.

Reference period of the results: data are provided as of 1 January each year.

Frequency of dissemination: annual.

For further information, the methodology can be accessed at:

https://www.ine.es/metodologia/t20/meto_censo_poblacion_anual.pdf

And the standardised methodological report at:

<https://ine.es/dynt3/metadatos/es/RespuestaDatos.html?oe=30281>

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