

13 December 2021

National Business Register (CBR) as at 1 January 2021

The number of active enterprises decreased 1.1% during 2020 and stood at 3.37 million

18.0% of active enterprises were 20 or more years old and 18.5% were less than two years

As of January 1, 2021, there were 3,366,570 active companies in Spain, 1.1% less than on the same date the previous year, according to data from the Central Business Register (CBR).

The data presented is comparable with that of the two previous years when using the adapted concept of enterprise that was implemented for the 2018 results.

Active businesses by economic sector

The sector *Other Services* once again had the highest weight in the structure of the population of companies. On 01 January 2021, it represented 60.7% of the total.

This sector, which had 2,043,693 active businesses, includes all those dedicated to hospitality, transportation and storage, information and communications, financial and insurance activities, real estate, professional, scientific and technical activities, administrative activities and auxiliary services, educational, health and social assistance and other social activities, including personal services.

The weight of *Trade* was also significant, with 21.2% of the total. This sector includes companies which carry out wholesale trade, retail trade and commission trade.

Finally, Construction sector companies represented 12.4% of the total and Industrial sector companies 5.7%.

Active companies by number of employees

From the point of view of size, measured by number of employees, the Spanish companies were once again characterized by their reduced dimension.

As of January 1, 2021, almost 1.88 million businesses did not employ any employees at all. This figure represented 55.8% of the total. Besides this, 920,321 companies (27.3% of the total) had one or two employees. If these two groups are added together, 83.1% had two or less employees.

Considering only the companies with employees, those that had 20 or more employees represented 4.5% of the total.

The highest percentage of small companies occurred in the *Other Services* sector (85.4% had two or less employees). In turn, the weight of large companies was concentrated in the *Industrial* sector, where 8.1% of the total employed 20 or more workers.

Active enterprises by economic sector and classes (number of employees)

Reference: 1 January 2021

	Total	Industry	Construction	Trade	Rest of the services
TOTAL	3,366,570	192,555	417,017	713,305	2,043,693
Without employees	1,879,126	68,235	245,595	346,695	1,218,601
1 to 2 employees	920,321	53,798	104,160	235,914	526,449
3 a 5 employees	304,095	25,460	34,016	80,092	164,527
6 to 9 employees	120,828	15,022	15,007	28,029	62,770
10 to 19 employees	75,522	14,535	10,901	12,240	37,846
20 or more employees	66,678	15,505	7,338	10,335	33,500

Active companies by age

The population of active companies is characterised by great dynamism, since only 18.0% existed 20 or more years ago.

On the other hand, an important presence of very young companies can be observed. As a matter of fact, 18.5% had less than two years as economically active units.

Company age distribution shows significant variations according to the different activity sectors considered.

Thus, industrial companies have the highest proportions of veteran companies (30.3% are 20 or over).

More young companies are represented in activities related to the *Services* sector, especially in *Hospitality* (21.7% have not yet completed their second year of existence) and *Transportation/Storage* (21.6%).

Active enterprises by economic sector and age classes

Reference: 1 January 2021

	Total	0 - 1	2 - 3	4-7	8-11	12-15	16 - 19	20 or more
TOTAL	3,366,570	621,700	474,054	647,818	429,119	327,471	259,441	606,967
Industry	192,555	22,883	19,375	31,028	23,597	20,773	16,647	58,252
Construction	417,017	80,417	62,790	77,361	45,648	48,511	36,521	65,769
Trade	713,305	117,891	91,298	135,774	90,939	61,368	55,601	160,434
Transportation/Storage	210,502	45,366	20,051	31,605	21,700	20,481	17,687	53,612
Accommodation/food services	274,085	59,470	44,255	56,178	35,092	20,979	17,959	40,152
Rest of the services	1,559,106	295,673	236,285	315,872	212,143	155,359	115,026	228,748

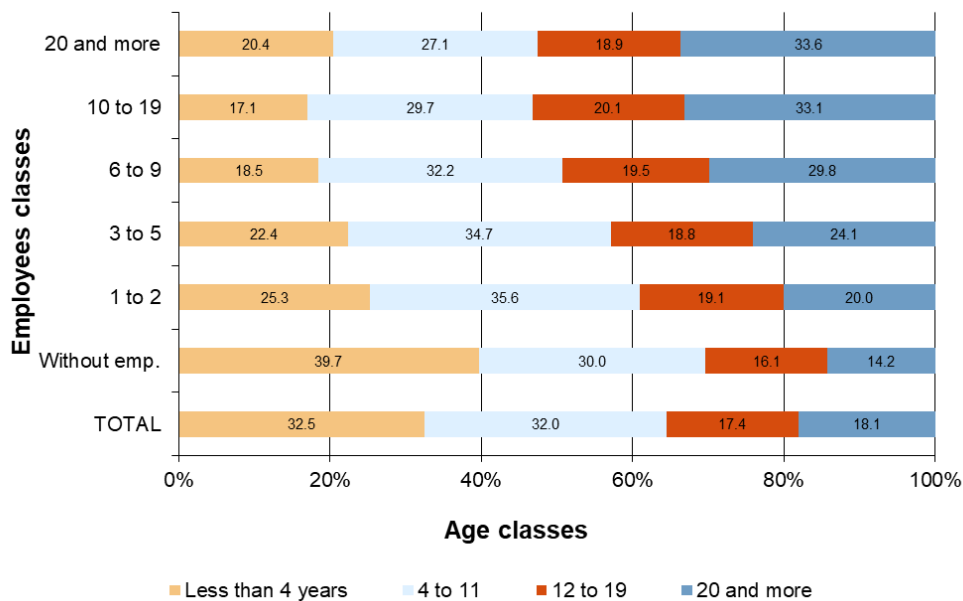
Active companies by size and age ranges

Distribution by age is linked to company size. Thus, the presence of very young companies was highly relevant as of January 1, 2021 in the microenterprise segment (39.7% of companies without employees were between their first and fourth years of life).

On the other hand, there was a greater representation of older companies in the larger ones (33.6% of companies with 20 or more employees were at least 20 years old).

The following graph combines the age of the companies with other basic structural element, such as the size measured in function of its stratum of employees.

Age of companies by employee stratum



Active companies that have a natural person as legal foundation, by sex

According to the different legal forms adopted in our legal framework, the CBR registered 1,879,120 companies with a natural person as legal foundation. This population represented 55.8% of the total set of units.

Of the total for these companies, 36.5% had a woman as the natural person. It should be noted that the level of representation is not homogeneous for all economic activities, however.

Activities related to *Education, Health and Social Services* sectors have a majority presence of businesswomen (56.1%).

In the *Retail trade* and other services sectors, the presence of women was also notable, with 46.0% and 43.8% of the total, respectively.

On the other hand, men were the majority presence in *Construction* (97.2% of the total) and *Transportation and Storage* (90.5%) activities.

Detailed activity sectors, by entrepreneur gender

Reference: 1 January 2021

	Total	Men	Woman
TOTAL	1,879,120	1,193,732	685,388
Industry	64,229	49,564	14,665
Construction	199,931	194,410	5,521
Wholesale	71,356	54,269	17,087
Retail trade	334,343	180,423	153,920
Transportation/storage	160,429	145,269	15,160
Accommodation/food services	163,750	97,062	66,688
Education, health and social services	204,187	89,737	114,450
Rest of the services	680,895	382,998	297,897

Company registrations and de-registrations

Considering the evolution over the past year, 321,749 companies began the exercise of economic activities during 2020. On the other hand, 366,548 ceased all their activities.

81.6% of the units registered as at 01 January 2021 were already active in the same date of the previous year.

Enterprises by demographic event

Reference: 1 January 2021

Demographic event	Total	Percentage
TOTAL	3,733,118	100
Incomings	321,749	8.6
Staying	3,044,821	81.6
Outgoings	366,548	9.8

The sectors that created the most companies in net terms during 2020 were *Postal and courier activities* (7,023) and *Advertising and market research* (1,384).

On the other hand, the sectors with the highest negative balances were *Food and beverage service activities* (-9,892) and *Retail trade, except motor vehicles* (-9,742).

Sectors with greater net creation of enterprises

Reference: 1 January 2021

CNAE 2009 Divisions	Incomings	Outgoings	Net balance
Postal and courier activities	12,357	5,334	7,023
Advertising and market research	7,866	6,482	1,384
Services to buildings and landscape activities	6,975	6,045	930

Sectors with greater net decrease of enterprises

Reference: 1 January 2021

CNAE 2009 Divisions	Incomings	Outgoings	Net balance
Food and beverage service activities	26,048	35,940	-9,892
Retail trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles	36,692	46,434	-9,742
Education	13,154	17,132	-3,978

Active companies by Autonomous Communities

Cataluña was the Autonomous Community which concentrated the greatest number of active companies at 01 January 2021, with 18.5% of the total.

This was followed by Comunidad de Madrid (16.2%) and Andalucía (15.8%).

Active enterprises by economic sectors and autonomous communities

Reference: 1 January 2021

	Total	Industry	Construction	Trade	Rest of the services
TOTAL	3,366,570	192,555	417,017	713,305	2,043,693
Andalucía	531,160	28,366	58,976	132,504	311,314
Aragón	88,602	6,410	11,490	17,456	53,246
Asturias, Principado de	67,573	3,451	8,052	13,741	42,329
Balears, Illes	98,120	4,735	16,837	15,474	61,074
Canarias	147,999	5,480	16,396	30,893	95,230
Cantabria	38,636	2,054	5,524	7,654	23,404
Castilla y León	157,131	11,332	22,447	35,371	87,981
Castilla-La Mancha	127,673	10,958	19,716	31,427	65,572
Cataluña	622,967	34,814	75,035	119,900	393,218
Comunitat Valenciana	368,044	24,057	45,261	83,065	215,661
Extremadura	66,386	4,778	8,328	18,708	34,572
Galicia	194,657	11,851	27,427	44,091	111,288
Madrid, Comunidad de	547,040	20,554	60,418	92,263	373,805
Murcia, Región de	95,294	7,048	12,224	24,174	51,848
Navarra, Comunidad Foral de	44,334	3,838	6,335	9,036	25,125
País Vasco	139,824	10,433	19,097	29,312	80,982
Rioja, La	22,357	2,202	2,757	4,805	12,593
Ceuta	3,749	73	290	1,347	2,039
Melilla	5,024	121	407	2,084	2,412

Active establishments by Autonomous Communities

Active companies registered in the CBR carried out their activities in 3,871,933 establishments set up in all the national territory during 2020.

By Autonomous Communities, Cataluña concentrated 18.5% of total establishments, Comunidad de Madrid 15.9% and Andalucía 15.8%.

Active local units by economic sectors and autonomous communities

Reference: 1 January 2021

	Total	Industry	Construction	Trade	Rest of the services
TOTAL	3,871,933	231,198	454,373	887,333	2,299,029
Andalucía	611,408	34,569	64,539	161,111	351,189
Aragón	104,397	7,881	12,784	22,652	61,080
Asturias, Principado de	77,760	4,129	8,773	17,464	47,394
Balears, Illes	114,345	5,530	18,488	20,066	70,261
Canarias	175,625	6,689	18,078	41,584	109,274
Cantabria	44,340	2,397	6,074	9,643	26,226
Castilla y León	184,471	14,512	24,651	44,387	100,921
Castilla-La Mancha	148,073	15,252	20,805	37,806	74,210
Cataluña	717,719	42,078	84,317	152,723	438,601
Comunitat Valenciana	423,092	28,388	49,323	102,726	242,655
Extremadura	77,125	6,166	8,996	22,257	39,706
Galicia	223,150	13,968	29,222	54,965	124,995
Madrid, Comunidad de	615,219	21,908	64,330	113,655	415,326
Murcia, Región de	108,760	8,556	13,065	29,023	58,116
Navarra, Comunidad					
Foral de	51,625	4,866	7,440	11,134	28,185
País Vasco	158,482	11,388	19,478	36,047	91,569
Rioja, La	26,325	2,673	3,233	6,075	14,344
Ceuta	4,414	103	335	1,666	2,310
Melilla	5,603	145	442	2,349	2,667

Data Review and Update

The data published today is final and is not subject to further revision. All results are available on INEBase.

Methodological note

The new definition of company, implemented in the DIRCE system with reference to 2018, affects the aspects of organizational structure, autonomy of decision and market orientation. In short, the economic factors of the units prevail over the traditional vision, which is more oriented towards legal aspects. The data generated in the 2020 CCD reference cycle - recently published and the focus of this publication - are consistent with those of the two previous years and allow for the temporal comparison of aggregates.

The Central Business Register (CBR) gathers all Spanish companies and their local units located in the national territory in a single information system. It is a key infrastructure tool which enables the carrying out and coordination of the research system aimed at the productions units.

In order to meet this requirement, the CBR must be duly updated and the units must be shown with reliable identification, localisation and classification data.

The CBR is compiled and maintained annually from data originating from diverse sources of an statistical and administrative nature. All this information is subjected to a sophisticated itinerary of cleaning, standardisation and integration with the object of achieving total national coverage. It is normally published in the first days of December, date which is conditioned by the periods where primary sources are available.

The CBR is a product implemented by the INE since 1989 and contains information relative to the population of companies in the national territory, as well as of the local units where these carry out their activities.

Other objectives are:

- Provide structural data on the number of companies and premises existing in Spain classified according to their main economic activity, employee ranges, legal status and geographic location.
- Provide data on the temporal evolution of companies in terms of new companies, existing companies and companies closed, found in the year the Directory was updated, and their classification by the usual variables.
- Satisfy the information demands required by international organizations, and in particular, by the Statistical Office of the European Union (Eurostat).

INE statistics are produced in accordance with the Code of Good Practice for European Statistics, which is the basis for the institution's quality policy and strategy. For more information see the section Quality at INE and the Code of Best Practices on the INE website.

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