

16 December 2022

## Central Business Register (CBR) as at 1 January 2022

**The number of active enterprises increased 1.9% during 2021 and stood at 3.43 million**

**18.4% of active enterprises were 20 or more years old and 17.4% were less than two years**

As of January 1, 2022, there were 3,430,663 active companies in Spain, 1.9% more than on the same date the previous year, according to data from the Central Business Register (CBR).

The *Rest of the Services sector*, once again had the highest weight in the structure of the population of companies. On 01 January 2022, it represented 61.2% of the total.

This sector, which had 2,098,974 active enterprises, 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 20.8% 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 5.6%.

### Active companies by number of employees

1.94 million enterprises did not employ any employees at all at January 1, 2022. This figure represented 56.6% of the total. Besides this, 905,804 companies (26.4% of the total) had one or two employees. If these two groups are added together, 83% had two or less employees.

Considering only the companies with employees, those that had 20 or more employees represented 4.6% of the total.

The highest percentage of small companies occurred in the *Rest of the Services* sector (85.3% had two or less employees). In turn, the weight of large companies was concentrated in the *Industrial* sector, where 8.4% of the total employed 20 or more workers.

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

Reference: 1 January 2022

	Total	Industry	Construction	Trade	Rest of the services
TOTAL	3,430,663	192,211	425,251	714,227	2,098,974
Without employees	1,942,319	69,004	250,731	350,730	1,271,854
1 to 2 employees	905,804	52,278	104,761	231,201	517,564
3 a 5 employees	308,888	24,912	34,838	80,583	168,555
6 to 9 employees	126,100	15,249	15,710	28,533	66,608
10 to 19 employees	78,909	14,684	11,424	12,616	40,185
20 or more employees	68,643	16,084	7,787	10,564	34,208

## Active companies by age

Only 18.4% of the actives companies existed 20 or more years ago.

On the contrary, as a matter of fact, 17.4% 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 (30.8% are 20 years old or over).

More young companies are represented in activities related to the *Services* sector, especially in *Hospitality* (19.4% have not yet completed their second year of existence) and *Construction* (18.4%).

## Active enterprises by economic sector and age classes

Reference: 1 January 2022

	Total	0 - 1	2 - 3	4-7	8-11	12-15	16 - 19	20 or more
TOTAL	3.430.663	596.914	501.425	674.837	448.428	309.380	268.745	630.934
Industry	192.211	22.050	19.709	31.016	24.364	19.764	16.048	59.260
Construction	425.251	78.444	65.721	83.076	46.226	43.287	38.964	69.533
Trade	714.227	113.105	92.954	136.191	94.766	58.749	54.398	164.064
Transportation/Storage	210.017	38.263	25.948	32.698	23.037	18.238	17.590	54.243
Accommodation/food services	278.326	54.001	48.453	59.730	36.355	20.505	17.793	41.489
Other services	1.610.631	291.051	248.640	332.126	223.680	148.837	123.952	242.345

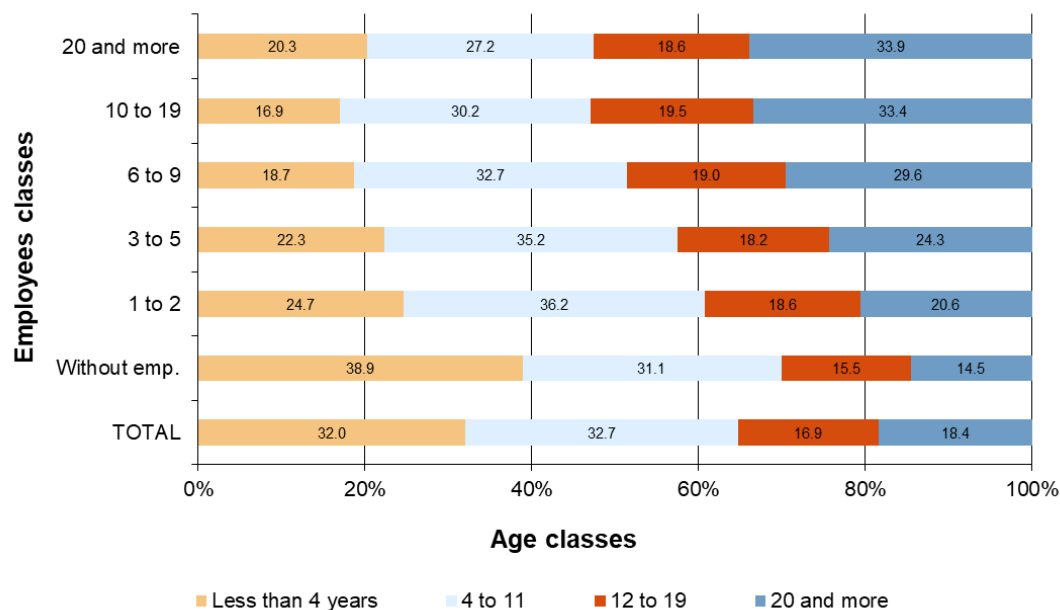
## Active companies by size and age ranges

Distribution by age is linked to company size. Thus, the presence of very young companies was highly relevant as of January 1, 2022 in the microenterprise segment (38.9% 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 (33.9% 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

The CBR registered 1,912,800 companies with a natural person as legal foundation at the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2022. This population represented 55.8% of the total set of units.

From the total for these companies, 36.9% had a woman as the natural person. It should be noted that the representation level is not homogeneous for all economic activities, however. Activities related to *Education, Health and Social Services* sectors have a majority presence of businesswomen (56.8%).

In the *Retail trade* and *Other services* sectors, the presence of women was also notable, with 46.1% and 44.1% of the total, respectively.

On the other hand, men were the majority presence in *Construction* (97.0% of the total) and *Transportation and Storage* (90.1%) activities.

## Detailed activity sectors, by entrepreneur gender

Reference: 1 January 2022

	Total	Men	Women
TOTAL	1.912.800	1.206.667	706.133
Industry	64.532	49.421	15.111
Construction	204.965	198.863	6.102
Wholesale	70.869	53.610	17.259
Retail trade	334.696	180.311	154.385
Transportation/storage	159.854	143.988	15.866
Accommodation/food services	164.619	97.318	67.301
Education, health and social services	212.806	91.922	120.884
Other services	700.459	391.234	309.225

## Company registrations and de-registrations

According to the evolution over the past year, 382,960 companies began the exercise of economic activities during 2021. On the other hand, 316,340 ceased all their activities.

81.3% of the units registered as at 01 January 2022 were already active in the same date of the previous year.

### Enterprises by demographic event

Reference: 1 January 2022

Demographic event	Total	Percentage
TOTAL	3,747,003	100
Incomings	382,960	10.2
Staying	3,047,703	81.3
Outgoings	316,340	8.4

The sectors that created the most companies in net terms during 2021 were *Real estate activities* (8,726) and *Human health activities* (5,448).

Regarding the sectors with the highest negative balances, these were *Postal and courier activities* (-1,627) and *Legal and accounting activities* (-778).

### Sectors with greater net creation of enterprises

Reference: 1 January 2022

NACE 2009 Divisions	Incomings	Outgoings	Net balance
Real estate activities	21,514	12,788	8,726
Human health activities	16,622	11,174	5,448
Other personal service activities	18,480	13,178	5,302

### Sectors with greater net decrease of enterprises

Reference: 1 January 2022

CNAE 2009 Divisions	Incomings	Outgoings	Net balance
Postal and courier activities	8,599	10,226	-1,627
Legal and accounting activities	7,081	7,859	-778
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	361	693	-332

## Active companies by Autonomous Communities

Cataluña was the Autonomous Community which concentrated the greatest number of active companies at 01 January 2022, with 18.5% of the total.

This was followed by Comunidad de Madrid (16.3%) and Andalucía (15.9%).

## Active enterprises by economic sectors and autonomous communities

Reference: 1 January 2022

	Total	Industry	Construction	Trade	Rest of the services
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,430,663</b>	<b>192,211</b>	<b>425,251</b>	<b>714,227</b>	<b>2,098,974</b>
Andalucía	545,502	28,538	60,801	133,636	322,527
Aragón	89,376	6,288	11,514	17,271	54,303
Asturias, Principado de	68,068	3,394	8,088	13,709	42,877
Balears, Illes	101,236	4,759	17,326	15,610	63,541
Canarias	151,846	5,546	16,746	30,781	98,773
Cantabria	38,960	1,989	5,530	7,601	23,840
Castilla y León	157,730	11,252	22,496	35,018	88,964
Castilla-La Mancha	129,626	10,986	20,171	31,270	67,199
Cataluña	634,223	34,811	75,923	120,409	403,080
Comunitat Valenciana	374,917	23,971	46,231	82,961	221,754
Extremadura	67,254	4,746	8,515	18,711	35,282
Galicia	196,530	11,724	27,631	43,697	113,478
Madrid, Comunidad de	558,607	20,553	61,834	93,205	383,015
Murcia, Región de	97,014	7,079	12,514	24,110	53,311
Navarra, Comunidad Foral de	45,738	3,915	6,565	9,132	26,126
País Vasco	142,904	10,298	19,886	29,057	83,663
Rioja, La	22,532	2,190	2,777	4,753	12,812
Ceuta	3,744	62	288	1,324	2,070
Melilla	4,856	110	415	1,972	2,359

## Active establishments by Autonomous Communities

Active companies registered in the CBR carried out their activities in 3,946,232 establishments set up in all the national territory during 2021.

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

## Active local units by economic sectors and autonomous communities

Reference: 1 January 2022

	Total	Industry	Construction	Trade	Rest of the services
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,946,232</b>	<b>231,334</b>	<b>463,836</b>	<b>890,811</b>	<b>2,360,251</b>
Andalucía	628,057	34,634	66,515	162,893	364,015
Aragón	105,650	7,790	12,833	22,680	62,347
Asturias, Principado de	78,385	4,059	8,820	17,433	48,073
Balears, Illes	118,084	5,581	18,960	20,405	73,138
Canarias	179,830	6,794	18,454	41,517	113,065
Cantabria	44,758	2,327	6,106	9,590	26,735
Castilla y León	185,303	14,437	24,695	44,133	102,038
Castilla-La Mancha	150,220	15,198	21,300	37,776	75,946
Cataluña	730,346	42,193	85,657	153,220	449,276
Comunitat Valenciana	431,843	28,437	50,312	103,250	249,844
Extremadura	78,039	6,083	9,217	22,344	40,395
Galicia	225,841	13,957	29,479	54,685	127,720
Madrid, Comunidad de	627,251	21,884	65,975	114,896	424,496
Murcia, Región de	110,728	8,610	13,377	28,990	59,751
Navarra, Comunidad Foral de	53,264	4,987	7,744	11,257	29,276
País Vasco	162,398	11,488	20,359	35,878	94,673
Rioja, La	26,456	2,643	3,255	6,037	14,521
Ceuta	4,361	95	333	1,608	2,325
Melilla	5,418	137	445	2,219	2,617

## 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 2021 CCD reference cycle - recently published and the focus of this publication - are consistent with those of the three 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, localization and classification data.

The CBR is compiled and maintained annually from data originating from diverse sources of a statistical and administrative nature. All this information is subjected to a sophisticated itinerary of cleaning, standardization 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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