

24 March 2021

Economically Active Population Survey (EAPS). Sub-sample variables Year 2020¹

Main results

- In the year 2020, 13.7% of those employed worked in *companies with 250 and more workers*, compared with 12.5% in 2019. In companies of up to 10 employees the percentage was 37.9%, compared to 39.4% in the previous year.
- In 2020, 53.5% of unemployed people with previous work experience had stopped working because *they had finished their contract* (55.8% in 2019) and 18.0% were fired or their position was eliminated (10.1% in 2019).
- A total of 305,600 employed persons, the majority women, worked part-time, for the purpose of having more time available to care for dependent persons. This figure was 7.4% higher than in 2019.
- In 2020, the areas of specialisation *Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)* and *Social Sciences, journalism and documentation* showed the highest employment rates (73.91% and 72.38%, respectively). *Health and social services* showed the lowest unemployment rate (9.12%).
- People who have studied *General training and personal skills* —being those who have, at most, reached compulsory secondary education or high school— showed the highest unemployment rates (20.19%) and the lowest rates of employment (35.89%).

¹ The results tables can be consulted in INEBASE:

http://www.ine.es/dyngs/INEbase/es/operacion.htm?c=Estadistica_C&cid=1254736176918&menu=resultados&secc=1254736195128&idp=1254735976595, Resultados anuales. Sub-sample variables.

Establishment size

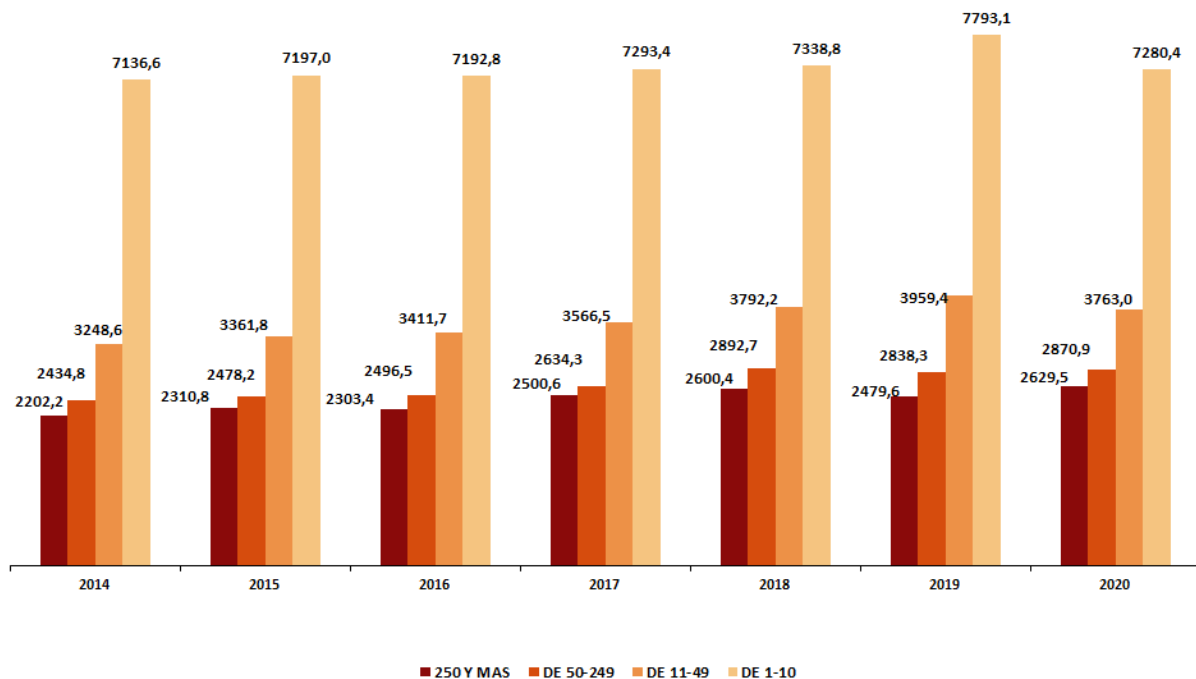
The average number of persons employed in 2020 was 19,202,400², representing an decrease of 576,900 over 2019.

According to the size of the establishment or work centre, the number of employed persons decreased in those which are smaller: There were 512,700 fewer people in those with *1 to 10 workers* and 196,400 fewer in those with *11 to 49*³. On the contrary, in *establishments with 250 or more workers* there was an increase of 149,900 people and in those with *50 to 249 workers*, 32,600.

The percentage of employed persons who worked in establishments with *up to 10 workers* decreased to 37.9%, as compared with 39.4% in 2019. On the contrary, in *establishments with 250 and more workers* it increased to 13.7%, from 12.5%.

Employed persons by number of persons working in the establishment

(Thousands of persons)



² All the results of the sub-sample variables, both those commented on in this press release and those included in INEBASE, are annual averages (see the methodological annex at the end of this press release).

³ The total number of employed persons in each size category does not coincide with the total number of jobs, because there are employed persons who do not know the size of the establishment where they work.

Type of work post

Most of the workers in Spain had a boss but no subordinate. Nearly seven out of 10 employees were in this situation in 2020.

Of the total number of employed persons, 10.1% were *self-employed (without a boss or subordinates)*; 7.2% were *middle-level managers*; 6.4% were *directors of small companies, departments or branches*, 6.2% were *persons in charge*; and 0.5% were *directors of large or medium-sized companies*.

The percentage of *employees (with bosses and without subordinates)* decreased compared to 2019 by seven tenths. On the contrary, the percentage of *self-employed workers (without bosses or subordinates)* increased by the same amount, standing at 10.1%.

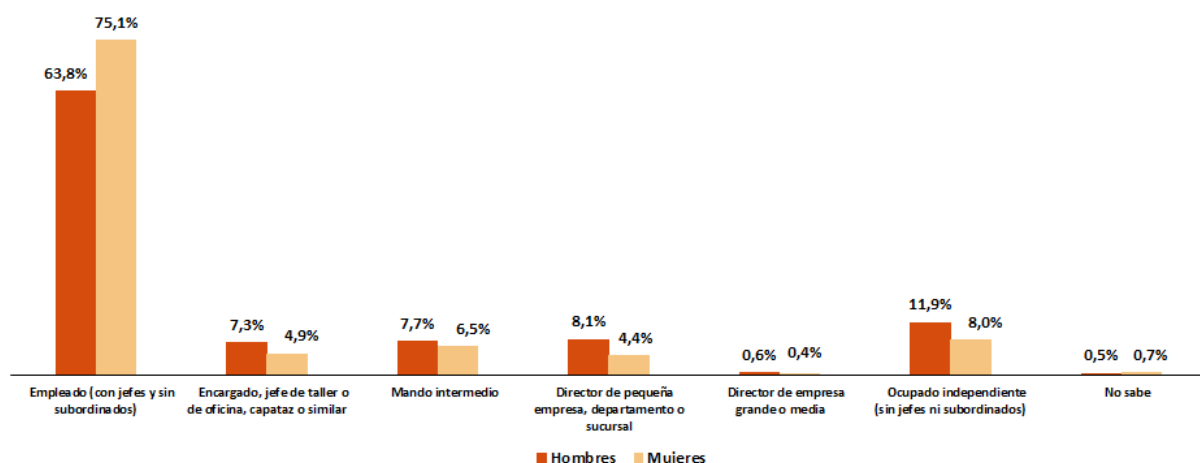
By sex, the difference between the percentages of men and women who were *self-employed (without bosses or subordinates)* was 3.9 points. The percentage of male *directors of a small company, department or branch* was 3.7 points higher than that of women.

In the case of the position of *employee (with bosses and without subordinates)*, the percentage of women exceeded that of men by 11.3 points.

Employed persons by type of work post and sex

Porcentaje	2020			2019		
	Ambos sexos	Hombres	Mujeres	Ambos sexos	Hombres	Mujeres
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100
Empleado (con jefes y sin subordinados)	68,9	63,8	75,1	69,6	64,1	76,3
Encargado, jefe de taller o de oficina, capataz o similar	6,2	7,3	4,9	6,5	7,9	4,7
Mando intermedio	7,2	7,7	6,5	7,1	7,7	6,3
Director de pequeña empresa, departamento o sucursal	6,4	8,1	4,4	6,5	8,1	4,5
Director de empresa grande o media	0,5	0,6	0,4	0,6	0,8	0,4
Ocupado independiente (sin jefes ni subordinados)	10,1	11,9	8,0	9,4	11,0	7,5
No sabe	0,6	0,5	0,7	0,3	0,3	0,3

Distribution of employed persons by type of work post and sex. Year 2020



Labour mediation and working conditions

The number of employees hired through a temporary employment agency (TEA) was 561,000 in 2020. It represented 3.5% of the total, compared to 4.1% in 2019.

On the other hand, 316,600 employees obtained their employment through the assistance of a public employment office. They represented 2.0% of the total, the same percentage as in 2019.

The restrictions on economic activity in 2020 derived from the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in atypical hours and working conditions.

A total of 83.5% of employed persons did not work *any day* at home. On the other hand, 10.8% worked from home *more than half the days* (compared to 4.8% in 2019) and 4.2% occasionally.

A total of 32.2% of employed persons worked at least *one Saturday per month*, which is 4.7 points less than in 2019. For 65.3% of employed persons, Saturday was not part of their working week, 4.8 points higher than in 2019.

As for Sunday, 19.1% of employed persons worked at least *one Sunday a month*, compared with 22.6% in 2019. On the other hand, 79.3% of employed persons did not work *any Sunday*, three and a half points more than in 2019.

10.7% of employed persons worked on night shift (13.0% in 2019). 5.7% did so *occasionally*, and 5.0% on *more than half of their working days*. The percentage of male night workers (13.0%) surpassed the number of female night workers (7.9%).

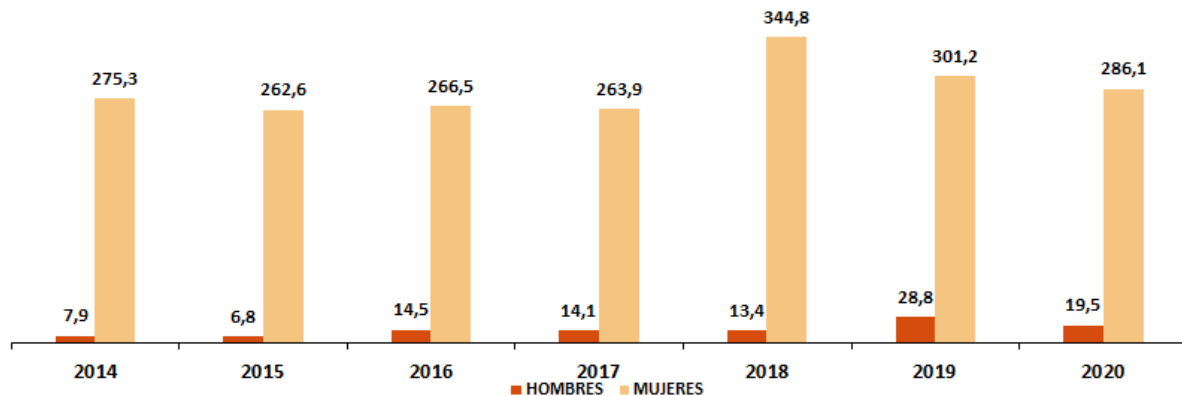
Dependency

A total of 305,600 persons worked part-time, in order to have more time available to care for dependent persons in 2020, which was 7.4% less than in the previous year.

The majority of those who worked part-time, in order to simultaneously work as caregivers were women (286,100). 54.8% of them were of the opinion that *services for caring for dependants (children, adults, ill persons, and persons with disabilities, etc.) were inadequate or they were unable to afford them*.

Persons who are employed part-time because they care for dependent persons

(Thousands of persons)



Unemployed persons

The majority of unemployed persons in 2020 were previously employed. Thus, of the 3,530,900 unemployed persons, about 3,233,400 had previously worked.

The main reason for leaving their job was the *termination of the contract*, which affected to 1,729,300 unemployed persons with previous employment (53.5% of the total, as compared to 55.8% in 2019).

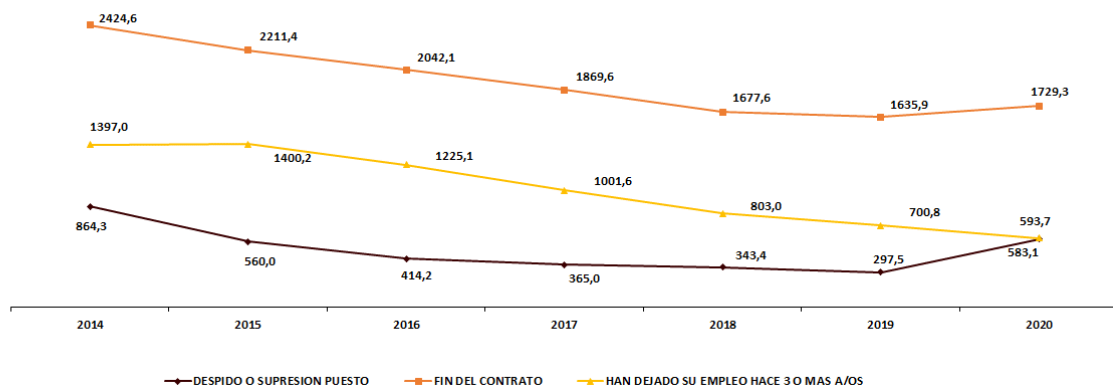
In absolute terms, unemployed persons who *left their last job three years ago or more* decreased to 593,700 compared to 700,800 in 2019. This was the category that decreased the most in 2020, accounting for 18.4% of the total number of unemployed persons with work experience, 5.5 points lower than 2019.

Another important reason for ending up unemployed was *dismissal or abolition of the job*, which affected 18.0% of unemployed people with previous work experience (7.9 points more than in 2019).

Unemployed persons who have previously worked by reason for leaving their last job and sex

En miles de personas	2020			2019			Diferencia 2020-2019
	Ambos sexos	Hombres	Mujeres	Ambos sexos	Hombres	Mujeres	
Total	3.233,4	1.554,8	1.678,6	2.931,9	1.376,4	1.555,5	301,5
Fin del contrato	1.729,3	860,3	869,0	1.635,9	796,3	839,6	93,4
Han dejado su último empleo hace 3 años o más	593,7	234,1	359,6	700,8	276,8	424,0	-107,1
Despido o supresión del puesto (incluye regulación de empleo)	583,1	293,9	289,2	297,5	172,5	125,0	285,6
Otras razones	210,5	109,4	101,1	195,0	86,7	108,3	15,5
Enfermedad o incapacidad propia	51,9	28,1	23,8	39,6	17,4	22,2	12,3
Seguir cursos de enseñanza o formación	28,6	13,9	14,7	26,3	11,2	15,1	2,3
Cuidado de niños o de adultos enfermos, incapacitados o mayores	9,7	0,2	9,5	17,8	7,1	10,7	-8,1
No sabe el motivo	6,5	6,1	0,4	7,2	2,9	4,3	-0,7
Otras obligaciones familiares o personales	10,9	1,1	9,7	8,1	2,6	5,5	2,8
Jubilación (normal o anticipada)	9,2	7,6	1,7	3,8	3,1	0,7	5,4

Unemployed persons with previous work experience according to the main reasons for leaving their last job. Thousands of persons



Training

Considering the Spanish population aged 16 years old and over, 57,93% had *General training and personal skills*, which correspond to persons who have at most reached *compulsory secondary education or the baccalaureate*.

The rest of the population had some specialisation in 2020, especially in *Business, Administration and Law* (10.35%); *Mechanics, electronics, other technical training, industry and construction* (7.93%), and *Health and social services* (5.92%).

Population aged 16 years old and over by sector of level of education achieved

	2020		2019	
	Miles de personas	Porcentaje	Miles de personas	Porcentaje
Total	39.578,8	100	39.269,3	100
Formación general y habilidades personales	22.928,7	57,93	23.159,2	58,98
Educación	1.471,6	3,72	1.532,2	3,90
Artes, humanidades y lenguas	1.162,9	2,94	1.110,9	2,83
Ciencias sociales, periodismo y documentación	650,4	1,64	638,4	1,63
Negocios, administración y derecho	4.094,6	10,35	3.821,0	9,73
Ciencias naturales, químicas, físicas y matemáticas	778,3	1,97	746,4	1,90
Tecnologías de la información y las comunicaciones (TIC)	859,1	2,17	826,0	2,10
Mecánica, electrónica, otra formación técnica, industria y construcción	3.136,7	7,93	3.035,7	7,73
Agricultura, ganadería, silvicultura, pesca y veterinaria	284,4	0,72	260,1	0,66
Salud y servicios sociales	2.343,5	5,92	2.204,0	5,61
Servicios	1.135,6	2,87	1.123,8	2,86
Sectores desconocidos/ No aplicable	733,0	1,85	811,7	2,07

Influence of training on the labour market

The level of training achieved and the area of study of this training are decisive factors in the rates of activity and employment of the population, both in terms of their amount and the distance between the male and female rates.

Population 16 years and older trained in *Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)* presented the highest activity rate (86.14%) in 2020, followed by persons trained in *Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry, Fisheries and Veterinary Medicine* (81.80%).

By sex, the female activity rate was higher than that of the male in four of the 12 study categories analysed (*Education; Natural sciences, mathematics and statistics; Engineering and engineering trades; Industry and construction; Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary*).

The highest activity rates in men were found in those specialized in *ICT* (88.50%) and those trained in *Health and social services* (82.37%). In women, it was among those trained in *Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary* (84.20%) and in *Social Sciences, journalism and information* (80.40%).

In turn, those persons with *General Training and personal skills programmes* presented the lowest activity rates (44.97%). In the case of women, these rates stood at 36.82%.

Activity rates by sector of level of education achieved and sex

Porcentaje	2020		
	Ambos sexos	Hombres	Mujeres
Total	57,44	62,93	52,24
Formación general y habilidades personales	44,97	53,22	36,82
Educación	70,92	67,15	72,04
Artes, humanidades y lenguas	69,95	70,39	69,67
Ciencias sociales, periodismo y documentación	80,58	80,88	80,40
Negocios, administración y derecho	77,89	80,67	76,16
Ciencias naturales, químicas, físicas y matemáticas	78,12	76,70	79,65
Tecnologías de la información y las comunicaciones (TIC)	86,14	88,50	79,23
Mecánica, electrónica, otra formación técnica, industria y construcción	77,73	77,50	79,52
Agricultura, ganadería, silvicultura, pesca y veterinaria	81,80	80,56	84,20
Salud y servicios sociales	77,85	82,37	76,51
Servicios	75,88	78,32	74,42
Sectores desconocidos/ No aplicable	20,03	29,56	14,53

The highest employment rate occurred in 2020 in the people trained in ICT (73.91%). Following this were those trained in *Social Sciences, journalism and documentation* (72.38%) and *Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary* (71.12%).

In turn, those persons with *General Training and personal skills* presented the lowest employment rate, of 35.89%.

By sex, the female employment rate was higher than that of males solely for the studies of *Education, Natural sciences, mathematics and statistics* and *Arts, Humanities and Languages*.

Employment rates by sector of educational level attained and sex

Porcentaje	2020		
	Ambos sexos	Hombres	Mujeres
Total	48,52	54,20	43,14
Formación general y habilidades personales	35,89	44,10	27,77
Educación	62,46	60,10	63,15
Artes, humanidades y lenguas	60,58	60,12	60,87
Ciencias sociales, periodismo y documentación	72,38	74,15	71,36
Negocios, administración y derecho	68,75	71,85	66,82
Ciencias naturales, químicas, físicas y matemáticas	70,88	69,59	72,28
Tecnologías de la información y las comunicaciones (TIC)	73,91	76,75	65,56
Mecánica, electrónica, otra formación técnica, industria y construcción	70,36	70,63	68,27
Agricultura, ganadería, silvicultura, pesca y veterinaria	71,12	72,46	68,54
Salud y servicios sociales	70,75	75,30	69,40
Servicios	63,13	68,34	59,99
Sectores desconocidos/ No aplicable	12,65	20,26	8,26

Regarding unemployment, the highest unemployment rates in 2020 were registered among those persons who had *General Training and personal skills* (20.19%).

Conversely, the lowest unemployment rates were among those trained in *Health and social services* (9.12%) and in *Natural sciences, mathematics and statistics* (9.26%).

In all training sectors, the female unemployment rate was higher than that of men, except in two cases. In *Arts, humanities and languages*, the rate of men was higher by 1.98 points than that of women, and in *Natural sciences, mathematics and statistics* it was higher by 0.03 points.

Employment rates by sector of the educational level attained and sex

Porcentaje	2020		
	Ambos sexos	Hombres	Mujeres
Total	15,53	13,87	17,43
Formación general y habilidades personales	20,19	17,12	24,57
Educación	11,94	10,50	12,34
Artes, humanidades y lenguas	13,40	14,60	12,62
Ciencias sociales, periodismo y documentación	10,17	8,33	11,24
Negocios, administración y derecho	11,73	10,93	12,26
Ciencias naturales, químicas, físicas y matemáticas	9,26	9,27	9,24
Tecnologías de la información y las comunicaciones (TIC)	14,21	13,28	17,25
Mecánica, electrónica, otra formación técnica, industria y construcción	9,48	8,86	14,15
Agricultura, ganadería, silvicultura, pesca y veterinaria	13,05	10,05	18,61
Salud y servicios sociales	9,12	8,59	9,29
Servicios	16,81	12,74	19,38
Sectores desconocidos/ No aplicable	36,84	31,45	43,17

Announcement of change in EAPS methodology in 2021

The 2020 EAPS annual subsample data, published today, are the latest obtained with the survey methodology that has been in effect since 2005.

As of 2021, Regulation (EU) 2019/1700 of the European Parliament and of the Council of October 10, 2019, which establishes a common framework for household surveys in the European Union, and the Regulation of Execution (EU) 2019/2240 of December 16, 2019, as well as other Delegated and Execution Regulations establishing the variables to be analysed, the definitions to be used and the periodicities for each of the variables in the EU Labour Force Survey.

The Spanish version of this survey is the EAPS, which has sought to adapt to the changes required by the aforementioned European regulations. The publication (in 2022) of the annual results of the 2021 subsample will incorporate these changes.

Methodological note

One of the new features introduced with the methodological changes of the EAPS in 2005 was the use of a Survey sub-sample, distributed throughout the year, for the purpose of providing information on structural variables as an annual average. This *survey system extended* to a sub-sample to cover a series of variables additional to those studied each quarter is called *sub-sample system*, and the additional structural variables obtained are known as *sub-sample variables*.

The possibility of implanting a system of this type is considered in European Council and Parliament Regulation no. 2257/2003 and in European Commission Regulation no. 430/2005. Its objective is to lessen the response workload of the EAPS, which had grown continuously with each of its methodological changes.

The sub-sample used is that of the households ending its collaboration with the EAPS each quarter of the year, that is, those that are in their sixth interview.

Type of survey: annual continuous survey, for sub-sample variables.

Population scope: population residing in family dwellings

Geographical scope: the entire national territory.

Reference period for sub-sample results: the year.

Reference period of the information: the week prior to the interview.

Sample size for the sub-sample: The sub-sample file has a lower number of records than the quarterly EAPS files. It consists of approximately 40,000 households.

Type of sampling: two-stage sampling with stratification in the first stage units. The first stage units are the census tracts and the second stage units are the inhabited family dwellings.

Collection method: personal and telephone interview.

For more information the methodology can be accessed at:

<https://www.ine.es/inebaseDYN/epa30308/docs/submuestra.pdf>

The standardized methodological report is at:

<https://www.ine.es/dynt3/metadatos/es/RespuestaDatos.html?oe=30308>

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 on Quality at INE and the Code of Best Practices on the INE website.

For further information see **INEbase:** www.ine.es/en/ Twitter: [@es_ine](https://twitter.com/es_ine)

All press releases at: www.ine.es/en/prensa/prensa_en.htm

Press Office: Telephone numbers: (+34) 91 583 93 63 /94 08 – gprensa@ine.es

Information Area: Telephone number: (+34) 91 583 91 00 – www.ine.es/infoine/?L=1
