

Vital Statistics

Provisional data 2006

The average number of children per woman in Spain increases to 1.37, reaching its highest value since 1991

Births to foreign women account for 16.46% of the total

The short-term fertility indicator, which measures the average number of children per woman of childbearing age, reached 1.37 in the year 2006, as compared to 1.35 registered in 2005. In this way, fertility in Spain continued its recovery and reached the highest level since 1991.

During the year 2006, there were 481,102 births, 14,731 more than those registered the previous year. The gross birth rate (which reflects the number of births per 1,000 inhabitants) increased to 10.92 from the 10.75 rate registered in 2005.

Evolution of the main magnitudes 1976-2006

Years	Marriages	Births (a)	Deaths (b)	Natural growth (a-b)	Marriage rate	Birth rate	Mortality rate
1976	260,974	677,456	299,007	378,449	7.23	18.76	8.28
1981	202,037	533,008	293,386	239,622	5.35	14.12	7.77
1986	207,929	438,750	310,413	128,337	5.40	11.39	8.06
1991	218,121	395,989	337,691	58,298	5.60	10.17	8.67
1996	194,084	362,626	351,449	11,177	4.92	9.19	8.90
1997	196,499	369,035	349,521	19,514	4.96	9.32	8.83
1998	207,041	365,193	360,511	4,682	5.21	9.19	9.08
1999	208,129	380,130	371,102	9,028	5.21	9.52	9.29
2000	216,451	397,632	360,391	37,241	5.38	9.88	8.95
2001	208,057	406,380	360,131	46,249	5.11	9.98	8.84
2002	211,522	418,846	368,618	50,228	5.12	10.14	8.92
2003	212,300	441,881	384,828	57,053	5.05	10.52	9.16
2004	216,149	454,591	371,934	82,657	5.06	10.65	8.71
2005	209,415	466,371	387,355	79,016	4.80	10.75	8.93
2006*	211,818	481,102	371,267	109,835	4.70	10.92	8.42

*Provisional data, classified by place of registration

The total increase in births was due, in part, to the contribution of foreign women, which continues to increase. In 2006, a total of 79,169 children were born to foreign mothers, that is, 12.68% more than in 2005.

Births to foreign mothers accounted for 16.46% of the total births in the year 2006, as compared to the 15.07% recorded in 2005 and 13.78% in 2004.

Ecuadorian women residing in Spain were the most numerous, followed by Moroccan women. However, the latter were the most prolific, giving birth to 17,205 children, 21.73% of the total births to foreign women in 2006.

Ecuadorian women had 8,999 children, which accounts for 11.37% of the births to foreign women. Colombians and Romanians, the next two most numerous nationalities residing in Spain, reached 5.97% and 10.95% of the total births to foreign women, respectively.

Lower mortality rate

371,267 deaths were registered in 2006, that is, 16,088 fewer than in 2005. The gross mortality rate (number of deaths per 1,000 inhabitants) decreased, amounting to 8.42 compared to the 8.93 registered in 2005.

The number of deaths of foreign nationals amounted to 9,691 people (2.61% of the total). 72.1% of the deaths of foreign nationals were of citizens from European Union member states, the foreign residents in Spain with the highest average ages. Considered by countries, the United Kingdom and Germany stood out, with 23.6% and 13.3% of the total, respectively.

Natural growth in 2006 was higher than the previous year

The natural growth of the population (difference between births and deaths) was 109,835 in 2006. This figure was higher than the 79,016 registered in 2005.

Slight reduction in the marriage rate

In the year 2006, 211,818 marriages were registered, 2,403 more than the previous year. The gross marriage rate (number of marriages per 1,000 inhabitants) stood at 4.70 as compared to the 4.80 registered in 2005.

The number of same-sex marriages was 4,574, which represents 2.16% of the total. 3,190 of the same-sex marriages were between men, and 1,384 were between women.

On the other hand, **in 33,984 marriages at least one of the spouses was a foreign national, which represents 16.04% of the total.** 43.5% of these marriages were between Spanish men and foreign women, 28.3% were between Spanish women and foreign men and in 24.0% both spouses were foreign.

4.10% of the marriages with at least one foreign spouse were same-sex (2.7% were Spanish men with foreign men).

Autonomous Communities

The autonomous communities that registered the highest growth in absolute terms during the year 2006 were **Andalucía (with 32,936 more inhabitants), Madrid (with 31,290) and Cataluña (with 23,630).**

Conversely, **Galicia**, Castilla y León, Principado de Asturias and Aragón registered the most significant negative natural growth.

Autonomous Communities	Marriages	Births	Deaths	Natural growth	Marriage rate	Birth rate	Mortality rate
Andalucía	43,625	95,527	62,591	32,936	5.47	12.17	7.97
Madrid (Comunidad de)	24,857	71,740	40,450	31,290	3.99	11.98	6.76
Cataluña	33,958	82,110	58,480	23,630	4.68	11.73	8.35
Comunitat Valenciana	23,235	52,803	39,377	13,426	4.83	11.25	8.39
Murcia (Región de)	6,503	18,144	9,797	8,347	4.77	13.43	7.25
Canarias	7,071	20,526	12,933	7,593	3.44	10.41	6.56
Balears (Illes)	4,334	11,661	7,812	3,849	4.19	11.68	7.83
Castilla-La Mancha	10,105	19,482	16,864	2,618	5.25	10.21	8.83
País Vasco	9,594	20,246	18,382	1,864	4.45	9.56	8.68
Navarra	2,762	6,393	5,044	1,349	4.61	10.80	8.52
Ceuta	317	1,409	459	950	4.42	19.70	6.42
Melilla	373	1,366	448	918	5.57	20.38	6.68
Rioja (La)	1,425	3,035	2,624	411	4.66	10.01	8.65
Extremadura	5,409	10,271	10,108	163	5.02	9.58	9.42
Cantabria	3,067	5,111	5,569	-458	5.42	9.12	9.94
Aragón	5,769	12,326	12,964	-638	4.49	9.74	10.24
Asturias (Principado de)	5,357	7,699	12,318	-4,619	5.00	7.28	11.64
Castilla y León	11,951	19,784	25,672	-5,888	4.79	7.98	10.35
Galicia	12,106	21,469	29,375	-7,906	4.42	7.89	10.80
TOTAL	211,818	481,102	371,267	109,835	4.70	10.92	8.42

European Union

Spain's position compared to the other European Union countries (EU 15), as regards the short-term fertility indicator (average number of children per woman of childbearing age), dropped from second place in 1976 (behind Ireland), to last place in 2001.

In 2005, Spain recovered and stood in eleventh place of the euro zone countries, surpassing Germany, Greece, Italy and Slovenia.

Most of the countries that have recently entered the EU have a short-term fertility indicator below the other EU countries, especially Slovenia, the Slovakia, and Poland.

EU short-term fertility indicator (average number of children per woman of childbearing age)

EU-27 Countries	1976	1981	1986	1991	1996	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
UE 15	1.92	1.77	1.59	1.53	1.44	1.49	1.50	1.52	1.52	
EU 25						1.46	1.46	1.48	1.50	
Germany	1.51	1.53	1.41	1.33	1.32	1.35	1.31	1.34	1.37	1.33
Austria	1.67	1.67	1.45	1.49	1.42	1.33	1.40	1.38	1.42	1.40
Belgium	1.73	1.66	1.54	1.66	1.55	1.64	1.62	1.64	1.64	
Cyprus						1.57	1.49	1.50	1.49	1.43
Denmark	1.75	1.44	1.48	1.68	1.75	1.74	1.72	1.76	1.78	1.78
Slovenia						1.21	1.21	1.20	1.22	1.26
Spain	2.80	2.04	1.56	1.33	1.16	1.24	1.26	1.31	1.33	1.35
Estonia						1.34	1.37	1.37	1.40	1.50
Finland	1.70	1.64	1.60	1.79	1.76	1.73	1.72	1.76	1.80	1.80
France	1.83	1.95	1.83	1.77	1.72	1.89	1.88	1.89	1.90	1.94
Greece	2.35	2.09	1.60	1.38	1.30	1.25	1.27	1.28	1.29	1.33
Netherlands	1.63	1.56	1.55	1.61	1.53	1.71	1.73	1.75	1.73	1.69
Hungary						1.31	1.30	1.27	1.28	1.31
Ireland	3.31	3.09	2.46	2.09	1.88	1.94	1.97	1.98	1.99	
Italy	2.10	1.59	1.34	1.31	1.21	1.25	1.26	1.28	1.33	1.31
Latvia						1.21	1.24	1.29	1.24	1.31
Lithuania						1.30	1.24	1.26	1.26	1.27
Luxembourg	1.48	1.55	1.43	1.60	1.76	1.66	1.63	1.63	1.70	1.69
Malta						1.72	1.46	1.46	1.37	
Poland						1.29	1.24	1.22	1.23	1.25
Portugal	2.58	2.13	1.66	1.57	1.43	1.45	1.47	1.44	1.42	1.40
United Kingdom	1.74	1.82	1.78	1.81	1.72	1.63	1.64	1.71	1.74	1.78
Czech Republic						1.14	1.17	1.18	1.23	1.28
Slovakia						1.20	1.18	1.20	1.25	1.26
Sweden	1.68	1.63	1.80	2.11	1.60	1.57	1.65	1.71	1.75	1.76
Bulgaria					1.23	1.24	1.21	1.23	1.29	1.31
Romania	2.57	2.51	2.22	1.62	1.37	1.31	1.26	1.27	1.29	1.32

Source: New Cronos. Eurostat

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