

19 October 2010



World Statistics Day (20-10-2010)

Service, integrity and professionalism, the fundamental values of official statistics

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Tomorrow, 20 October 2010, will be the first celebration of World Statistics Day. This event highlights the importance of official statistics in our society, and hopes to transmit their three fundamental values: service, integrity and professionalism.

Spain has joined this initiative, agreed by the United Nations Statistical Commission last February, which intends to celebrate the many achievements of official Statistics, as well as to contribute to strengthening the trust that society has in them.

The growth of official statistics in Spain

On a national level, the celebration of World Statistics Day aims to contribute to increasing the visibility and credibility of official Statistics in Spain.

Both political decisions, and business and institutional ones, and in general, all citizens' decisions, require increasingly greater and better statistical information.

With the objective of responding to the new and growing demands for information, official Spanish statistical production has experienced noteworthy growth in recent years.

Between 1993 (the year in which the first National Statistical Plan was passed) and 2010, the number of statistical operations carried out by the National Statistics Institute (INE) increased 70.0%. This has been accompanied by a considerable increase in the questionnaires completed by companies and households (205.9% in the last 10 years).

In order to reduce the information load of companies and households, and enable their participation, the INE has intensified a dual strategy during these years. On the one hand, there is the use of administrative registers as an alternative method for collecting data on the informant units. On the other hand, there is the use of the Internet as an information collection method. Currently, **one in five completed questionnaires is collected online.**

The INE has also made an extraordinary effort to enhance the dissemination of statistical information throughout our society. Between 2000 and 2009, the number of press releases published increased 30.3%, telephone calls answered grew 49.4% and requests for

information made-to-order increased 325.8%. During that same period, **hits on the INE website increased 15-fold**, surpassing 139.5 million in the last year.

More than 5,000 million items of data are currently available for query on the INE website.

Commemorative events for World Statistics Day

In order to commemorate World Statistics Day, the INE has scheduled several initiatives.

In this sense, there will be an **open day** tomorrow, targeting the educational world in the 52 provincial delegations of the INE, in which different activities are planned, such as guided tours of the installations and multimedia presentations on the process of compiling some of the most significant statistics. It is expected that, during this open day, nearly 3,000 students from more than 100 schools throughout Spain will participate.

Likewise, an **institutional event** will take place in the INE headquarters in Madrid. Participating in said event will be **Jaume García Villar**, President of the INE, **Rafael Álvarez Blanco**, ex-Director of the Department of Statistics and Balance Centre of the Bank of Spain and **Vicente Pérez Moreda**, Professor of History and Economic Institutions of the Universidad Complutense de Madrid.

Moreover, a special issue of the INE Figures information bulletin will be published, as well as an edition of the Índice magazine, commemorating this date.

The INE website has included a specific section regarding the celebration of World Statistics Day, providing more information on the subject (http://www.ine.es/en/diamundesta/diamundesta_inicio_en.htm).