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19 December 2024

Annual Population Census
1 January 2024. Preliminary Results

Main results

- The population of Spain stood at 48,619,695 inhabitants as of 1 January 2024, with an increase of more than 500,000 people in one year.
- 13.4% of the population had foreign nationality and 18.2% were born outside of Spain.
- The largest increases in foreign residents during 2023 were among citizens of Colombia (124,566 more), Peru (47,598), and Venezuela (47,095).
- Torrevieja, Arrecife and Granadilla de Abona were the cities with the greatest relative population growth in 2023.

More information

- Annual Population Census
- Population and Housing Censuses
- Continuous population statistics
- Infographic

The resident population in Spain on 1 January 2024 stood at 48,619,695 inhabitants, that is 534,334 more people than in 2023 on the same date (an increase of 1.1%).

Of this total, 42,117,413 had Spanish nationality (86.6%) and 6,502,282 had foreign nationality (13.4%). The number of foreign nationals increased by 6.8% compared to the previous year.

Population resident in Spain as at 1 January

		Census 2024	Census 2023	Variation 2023 Absolute	Variation 2023 Relative (%)
TOTAL		48,619,695	48,085,361	534,334	1.11
Sex	**Men**	23,826,871	23,565,593	261,278	1.11
	Women	24,792,824	24,519,768	273,056	1.11
Age	**Less than 16 years**	6,974,590	7,054,555	-79,965	-1.13
	From 16 to 64 years	31,716,737	31,343,030	373,707	1.19
	More than 64 years	9,928,368	9,687,776	240,592	2.48
Citizenship	**Spanish**	42,117,413	41,995,741	121,672	0.29
	Foreigner	6,502,282	6,089,620	412,662	6.78
Country of birth	**Spain**	39,781,461	39,881,155	-99,694	-0.25
	Foreign	8,838,234	8,204,206	634,028	7.73

The relative proportion of the population over 64 years of age was 20.4%. This resulted in the dependency ratio for those over 64 years of age –which is the ratio between the population aged over 64 and those aged 16 to 64– being 0.31.

Foreign population by nationality

The most numerous foreign nationals as at 1 January 2024 were Moroccans (920,693), Romanians (620,463) and Colombians (587,477).

Among the main nationalities, the largest increases during 2023 were among citizens of Colombia (124,566 more), Peru (47,598 more), and Venezuela (47,095). The largest decreases were among nationals from the United Kingdom (-11,635), Romania (-9,292), and Bulgaria (-2,388).

In relative terms, and among the nationalities with the highest number of foreigners, the greatest population increases were registered among the citizens of Peru (27.7%), Colombia (27.4%) and Venezuela (16.9%). In turn, the United Kingdom (-4.1%), Bulgaria (-2.1%), and Romania (-1.5%) recorded the largest decreases.

Foreign population as at 1 January. Main nationalities

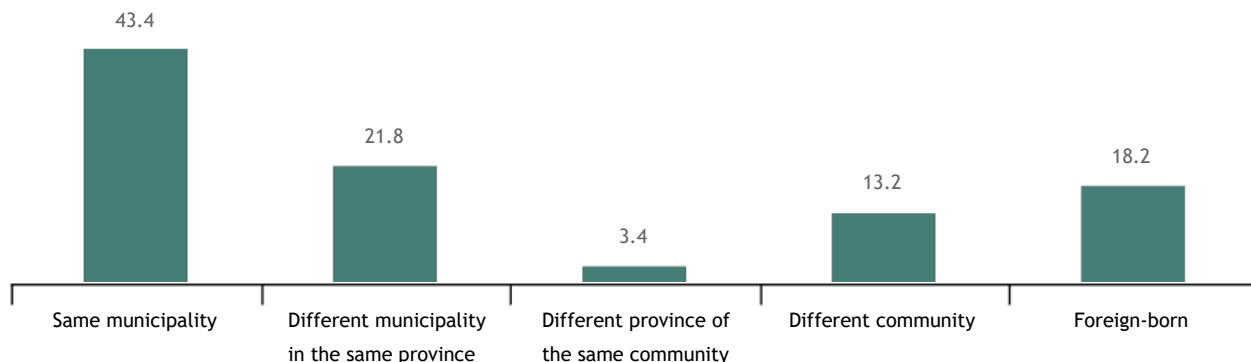|	2024		2023		Variation	
	Number of persons	% of total foreigners	Number of persons	% of total foreigners	Absolute	Relative (%)
Morocco	920,693	14.2	893,953	14.7	26,740	3.0
Romania	620,463	9.5	629,755	10.3	-9,292	-1.5
Colombia	578,477	8.9	453,911	7.5	124,566	27.4
Italy	325,358	5.0	301,791	5.0	23,567	7.8
Venezuela	325,254	5.0	278,159	4.6	47,095	16.9
United Kingdom	272,402	4.2	284,037	4.7	-11,635	-4.1
China	226,718	3.5	219,929	3.6	6,789	3.1
Peru	219,643	3.4	172,045	2.8	47,598	27.7
Ukraine	210,012	3.2	193,238	3.2	16,774	8.7
Honduras	171,771	2.6	156,969	2.6	14,802	9.4
Argentina	137,089	2.1	119,252	2.0	17,837	15.0
Germany	128,049	2.0	125,792	2.1	2,257	1.8
Ecuador	124,750	1.9	120,034	2.0	4,716	3.9
France	123,420	1.9	120,771	2.0	2,649	2.2
Bulgaria	112,834	1.7	115,222	1.9	-2,388	-2.1
Paraguay	111,136	1.7	97,650	1.6	13,486	13.8
Pakistan	108,594	1.7	103,683	1.7	4,911	4.7
Portugal	106,843	1.6	103,656	1.7	3,187	3.1
Russian Federation	106,375	1.6	94,466	1.6	11,909	12.6
Brazil	101,779	1.6	97,352	1.6	4,427	4.5

Population by place of birth

As of 1 January 2024, 43.4% of the population resided in the same municipality in which they were born and 21.8% in another municipality in the same province.

Meanwhile, the percentage of people born abroad reached 18.2% (compared to 17.1% on the same date in 2023).

Among those born abroad, 12.4% (more than one million inhabitants) were born in Morocco, 9.7% in Colombia, and 6.8% in Venezuela.

Relationship between place of birth and residence. 1 January 2024
Percentage

Same municipality	Different municipality in the same province	Different province of the same community	Different community	Foreign-born
43.4	21.8	3.4	13.2	18.2

Population by autonomous communities and provinces

During 2023, the population increased in all autonomous communities. The largest increases occurred in the Community of Madrid (137,365 more people), Catalonia (110,268 more), and the Valencian Community (103,090 more).

In relative terms, the largest increases occurred in the Community of Madrid and the Valencian Community (2.0% in both) and in the Balearic Islands (1.8%).
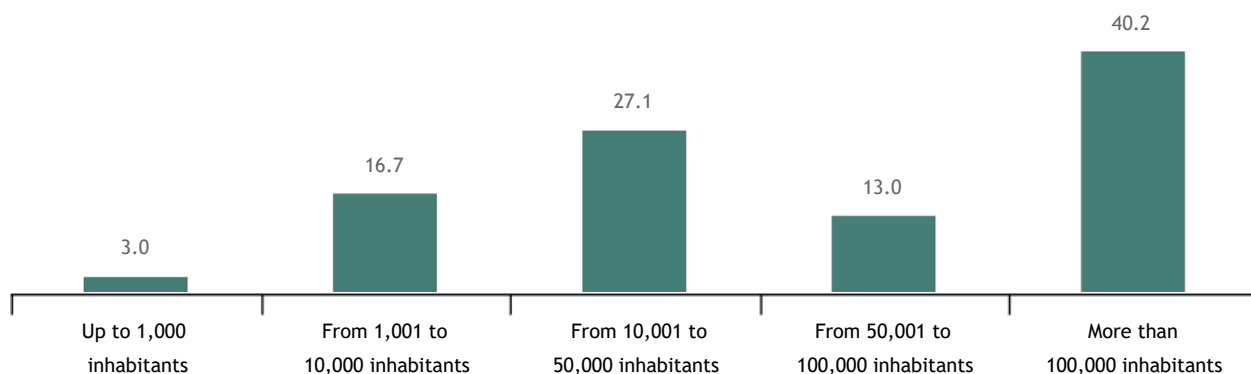
By provinces, the number of inhabitants increased in all except six. The provinces with the highest growth were Valencia and Madrid (2.0% each), followed by Alicante (1.9%). The greatest decreases were registered in Zamora (-0.4%), Jaén (-0.3%), and León (-0.2%).

Population by municipalities

On 1 January 2024, 40.2% of the population resided in municipalities with over 100,000 inhabitants. Meanwhile, 16.7% of the population lived in municipalities with inhabitant figures between 1,001 and 10,000, while 3.0% lived in municipalities with 1,000 or fewer inhabitants.

Population by size of municipality as at 1 January 2024
Percentage

Up to 1,000 inhabitants	From 1,001 to 10,000 inhabitants	From 10,001 to 50,000 inhabitants	From 50,001 to 100,000 inhabitants	More than 100,000 inhabitants
3.0	16.7	27.1	13.0	40.2

In 4,298 of the 8,132 municipalities existing on 1 January 2024 (52.9% of the total), the population increased or remained the same during 2023.

Among the main cities, the largest relative population increases occurred in Torrevieja (6.7%), Arrecife (5.1%), and Granadilla de Abona (3.9%).

In contrast, the largest decreases were recorded in Cádiz (-0.8%), San Fernando (-0.3%), and Getxo (-0.2%).

Main cities by relative population growth in 2023
Percentage

Municipality	Higher growth	Municipality	Lower growth
Torrevieja	6.7	Cádiz	-0.8
Arrecife	5.1	San Fernando	-0.3
Granadilla de Abona	3.9	Getxo	-0.2
Benidorm	3.3	Lorca	-0.1
Colmenar Viejo	3.2	Cuenca	0.0
San Sebastián de los Reyes	2.7	Ponferrada	0.0
Gandia	2.7	Avilés	0.0
Eivissa	2.6	Ejido, El	0.1
València	2.5	Sanlúcar de Barrameda	0.1
Aranjuez	2.5	Cerdanyola del Vallès	0.1

Data revisions and updates

The data published today are final. All results are available on INEBase.

Methodological note

The 2021 Population and Housing Census was the last of the ten-year censuses in Spain and the first to be carried out entirely based on official public administration records, without surveying any households. This new methodology makes it possible to have census information available every year, in the case of the population, and every three or four years in the case of households.

The first results of the Annual Population Census will be published in December of each year and will provide the official figures and the basic demographic characteristics of the population resident in Spain on 1 January of the same year. In the following months, the information will be completed with variables related to education and employment, such as the relationship with economic activity (active, employed, unemployed, etc.), educational level and studies in progress, among others.

These figures will be incorporated as final in the next publication of the Continuous Population Statistics (in February of the year following the census publication), which provides provisional estimates of the population further in advance.

Type of operation: Statistics with an annual periodicity, based on administrative data.

Population scope: population resident in Spain, with the population resident in a specific geographical area being understood to be those persons who, on the reference date, have established their habitual residence therein.

Geographical scope: national, autonomous communities and cities, provinces and islands, municipalities, districts and census sections.

Reference period of the results: data are provided as of 1 January each year.

Frequency of dissemination: annual.

For more information, you can access the methodology and the standardised methodological report.

INE statistics are produced in accordance with the Code of Good Practice for European Statistics. More information on Quality at INE and the Code of Best Practices.

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