

13 December 2024

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## Central Business Register (CBR)

1 January 2024

### Main results

- The number of active enterprises increased by **1.5%** during 2023 and stood at 3.25 million.
- 18.6% of active enterprises were 20 or more years old and 19.1% were less than two years old.

### More information

- [Detailed results](#)
- [Tables annex](#)

On 1 January 2024, there were 3,255,276 economically active enterprises in Spain, **1.5%** more than on the same date the previous year.

By sectors, *Other Services* accounted for the largest proportion in the enterprise population structure, with 65.3% of the total.

This sector, which had 2,060,614 active enterprises, includes all those engaged in 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 proportion of *Commerce* was also significant, accounting for 19.5% of the total. This sector encompasses the enterprises engaged in wholesale and retail trading activities and trade brokers and intermediaries.

Finally, enterprises in the *Construction* sector accounted for 11.8% of the total and those of *Industry*, 5.4%.

### Active enterprises by number of employees

A total of 1.69 million enterprises did not employ any employees at all as of 1 January 2024. This figure represents 52.0% of the total. In addition, another 955,079 enterprises (29.3% of the total) had one or two employees. If these two groups are added together, 81.3% had two or fewer employees.

If we only consider enterprises with employees, those with 20 or more employees accounted for **4.8%** of the total.

The highest percentage of small enterprises occurred in the *Other Services* sector (84.0% had two or fewer employees). In contrast, large enterprises were mostly concentrated in the Industrial sector, where 9.3% of the total employed 20 or more employees.

### Active enterprises by economic sector, by employee range

Information as of 1 January 2024



	Total	Industry	Construction	Trade	Rest of the services
<b>TOTAL</b>	3,255,276	175,806	383,622	635,234	2,060,614
<b>Without employees</b>	1,692,479	54,148	198,579	274,095	1,165,657
<b>1 to 2 employees</b>	955,079	51,614	111,253	227,511	564,701
<b>3 a 5 employees</b>	316,419	24,073	36,095	80,460	175,791
<b>6 to 9 employees</b>	131,903	14,930	16,522	29,115	71,336
<b>10 to 19 employees</b>	84,907	14,666	12,421	12,952	44,868
<b>20 or more employees</b>	74,489	16,375	8,752	11,101	38,261

### Active enterprises by age

18.6% of active enterprises on 1 January 2024 had existed for 20 years or more. On the other hand, 19.1% had not completed two years as economically active units.

The age distribution of enterprises shows significant variations by sector. Thus, industrial enterprises have the highest proportions of veteran enterprises (32.0% have existed for 20 years or more). More young enterprises are represented in activities related to the *Services* sector – especially in *Hospitality* (23.7% have not yet completed their second year of existence) and in the *Construction* sector (20.8%).

### Active enterprises by economic sector, by age range

Information as of 1 January 2024



	Total	0-1	2-3	4-7	8-11	12-15	16-19	20 or more
<b>TOTAL</b>	3,255,276	621,413	384,028	650,240	413,791	328,383	252,894	604,527
<b>Industry</b>	175,806	21,072	14,913	27,970	19,876	20,403	15,319	56,253
<b>Construction</b>	383,622	79,718	50,747	81,908	46,238	32,301	31,562	61,148
<b>Trade</b>	635,234	102,462	67,362	118,793	84,408	65,122	46,975	150,112
<b>Transportation/Storage</b>	205,574	40,892	23,349	33,386	22,018	17,130	17,536	51,263
<b>Accommodation/food services</b>	264,006	62,572	33,742	58,377	31,678	24,335	15,377	37,925
<b>Other services</b>	1,591,034	314,697	193,915	329,806	209,573	169,092	126,125	247,826

### Active enterprises by size and age ranges

The age distribution is linked to size. Thus, the presence of very young enterprises was highly significant as of 1 January 2024 in the micro-enterprise segment (39.2% of the enterprises without employees were between their first and fourth years of existence).

On the other hand, there was a greater representation of older enterprises in the larger ones (33.9% of enterprises with 20 or more employees had existed for at least 20 years).

### Active enterprises that have a sole proprietor as legal support, by gender

The CBR recorded 1,838,474 enterprises that had a sole proprietor as their legal support as of 1 January 2024. This population accounted for 56.5% of the total set of units.

Of these enterprises, 37.7% had a woman as the sole proprietor. However, it should be noted that this representativeness is not uniform by activity. Thus, activities related to *Education, Health and Social Services* recorded a majority presence of businesswomen (58.4% of the total). On the other hand, men were the majority in *Construction* (97.1% of the total) and *Transportation and Storage* (88.8%).

#### Detailed activity sectors, by gender of the business person

Information as of 1 January 2024

	Total	Men	Woman
<b>TOTAL</b>	1,838,474	1,145,547	692,927
<b>Industry</b>	58,613	44,781	13,832
<b>Construction</b>	197,381	191,718	5,663
<b>Wholesale</b>	60,840	45,910	14,930
<b>Retail trade</b>	302,871	163,183	139,688
<b>Transportation/storage</b>	159,678	141,824	17,854
<b>Accommodation/food services</b>	153,413	89,106	64,307
<b>Education, health and social services</b>	210,690	87,547	123,143
<b>Other services</b>	694,988	381,478	313,510

### Enterprise registrations and deregistrations

Based on last year's trend, 376,872 enterprises began their economic activities during 2023, while 326,639 ceased all their activities. Meanwhile 80.4% of the units registered on 1 January 2024 were active on the same date in the previous year.

#### Movements registered with respect to 1 January 2023 by demographic category

Information as of 1 January 2024

Demographic event	Total	Percentage
<b>TOTAL</b>	3,581,915	100.0
<b>Incomings</b>	376,872	10.5
<b>Staying</b>	2,878,404	80.4
<b>Outgoings</b>	326,639	9.1

The sectors that created the most enterprises in net terms during 2023 were *Real estate activities* (7,024) and *Land and pipeline transport* (4,889).

**Sectors with the greatest net creation of enterprises**

Information as of 1 January 2024

NACE 2009 Divisions	Incomings	Outgoings	Net balance
Real estate activities	20,708	13,684	7,024
Land transport and transport via pipelines	17,377	12,488	4,889
Other personal service activities	21,212	16,335	4,877
Construction of buildings	26,889	22,021	4,868

In contrast, the sectors with the most negative overall figures were *Retail trade, except motor vehicles and motorcycles* (-5,895) and *Wholesale trade and commission trade, except motor vehicles and motorcycles* (-614).

**Sectors with the largest net number of enterprises that have ceased their activity**

Information as of 1 January 2024

NACE 2009 Divisions	Incomings	Outgoings	Net balance
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	325	647	-322
Gambling and betting activities	478	807	-329
Legal and accounting activities	6,737	7,111	-374
Wholesale trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles	16,989	17,603	-614
Retail trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles	37,511	43,406	-5,895

**Active enterprises by autonomous communities**

Cataluña was the community with the most economically active enterprises on 1 January 2024, with 18.5% of the total. It was followed by Andalucía (16.3%) and Comunidad de Madrid (15.8%).

**Active enterprises by economic sector and by autonomous communities and cities**

Information as of 1 January 2024



	Total	Industry	Construction	Trade	Rest of the services
<b>TOTAL</b>	3,255,276	175,806	383,622	635,234	2,060,614
<b>Andalucía</b>	529,087	26,594	56,499	121,221	324,773
<b>Aragón</b>	84,439	5,709	10,284	15,523	52,923
<b>Asturias, Principado de</b>	64,463	3,039	7,348	12,196	41,880
<b>Balears, Illes</b>	100,430	4,486	17,049	14,312	64,583
<b>Canarias</b>	142,398	4,951	14,528	26,213	96,706
<b>Cantabria</b>	38,005	1,859	5,224	6,937	23,985
<b>Castilla y León</b>	148,398	10,434	20,490	31,365	86,109
<b>Castilla-La Mancha</b>	123,486	10,067	18,872	28,352	66,195
<b>Cataluña</b>	602,706	31,964	67,968	107,940	394,834
<b>Comunitat Valenciana</b>	361,234	21,994	42,527	73,784	222,929
<b>Extremadura</b>	63,577	4,348	7,669	16,814	34,746
<b>Galicia</b>	185,554	10,586	24,638	38,806	111,524
<b>Madrid, Comunidad de</b>	513,575	17,529	52,909	78,885	364,252
<b>Murcia, Región de</b>	92,458	6,592	11,035	21,692	53,139
<b>Navarra, Comunidad Foral de</b>	40,934	3,694	5,317	7,872	24,051
<b>País Vasco</b>	135,658	9,741	18,158	26,323	81,436
<b>Rioja, La</b>	21,219	2,040	2,423	4,358	12,398
<b>Ceuta</b>	3,301	62	260	1,052	1,927
<b>Melilla</b>	4,354	117	424	1,589	2,224

**Active premises by autonomous communities**

Active enterprises registered in the CBR carried out their activities in 3,795,625 premises established in all the national territory during 2023.

By autonomous community, Cataluña concentrated 18.6% of the total of premises, Andalucía 16.2% and Comunidad de Madrid 15.5%.

**Data revisions and updates**

The data published today are final. All the results of this operation are available at [INEbase](#).

## Methodological note

Due to the entry into force of EBS Regulation 2019/2152 and its Implementation Act 2020/1197, the statistical use of the Central Business Register (CBR) has adopted some methodological changes since 2022. The new definition of economically active enterprise, implemented in 2022, affects the count of the number of active enterprises, so there is a break in series in 2022 and the data are not comparable with those of previous years.

On the other hand, the CBR continues to use the concept of the enterprise implemented in 2018, according to which the aspects of organisational structure, decision-making autonomy and market orientation are emphasised. In short, the economic factors of the units take precedence over the traditional vision, more oriented to legal aspects.

The Central Business Register (CBR) brings together in a single information system all Spanish enterprises and their local units located in the national territory. It is a key infrastructure tool for the development and coordination of the research system aimed at production units.

To meet this requirement, the CBR must be duly updated and the units must be listed with reliable identification, location and classification data.

The CBR is assembled and maintained on an annual basis, based on data from various sources of administrative and statistical origin. All this information undergoes a sophisticated process of filtering treatments, harmonisation and integration in order to achieve complete national coverage.

Other goals of the CBR are:

- To provide structural data on the number of enterprises and premises existing in Spain classified according to their main economic activity, employee ranges, legal condition and geographic location.
- To provide data on the temporal evolution of enterprises in terms of newly registered enterprises, existing enterprises and deregistered enterprises, identified in the year the Register was updated, and their classification by the usual variables.
- To satisfy the information demands required by international organisations, and in particular, by the Statistical Office of the European Union (Eurostat).

More information on 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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For further information see [INEbase](#)

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