

Most frequent given names

Methodological description

In this section, information about the territorial distribution, by nationality and by birth decade of the names of people living in Spain is provided.

The recount of the names is performed using the information contained in the Continuous Register Statistics file at January 01 of each year, this file being derived from the INE Register database after obtaining the proposal of the official population figures. The Register database is updated from the variations files sent by the different municipalities, once the INE has carried out the coordination tasks among the different municipal registers according to the current legislation.

Additional statistical cleansing is applied to the exploitation file so that all published data values are valid. Cleansing and standardization of names are also made in order to get a greater homogeneity of the information, eliminating accents and allowing as valid characters the apostrophe and the cedilla, but not the diaeresis.

The publication is annually updated in May with the available data from the last *Continuous Register Statistics*.

Presentation of results

The results may be queried in the form of *Excel tables*, or by using the *software application* designed for this purpose that shows result tables, maps, and graphics. In either case, a column with the number of persons with the chosen name is shown and, according to the selected criterion, the percentage (as per thousand) that it represents over the total population of the group to which it refers or with regard to the average age of people with that name.

Excel tables

Tables in Excel format with the most frequent names are presented: 100 for the overall national territory, 50 for each province of residence, 50 for each decade of birth, and 20 for each nationality. It is also possible to consult a list with all the names of people resident in Spain with a frequency equal or higher than 20.

Application

In order to facilitate the consultation, a tool has been designed that allows choosing a name and seeing how many persons have that name, according to the province of residence, decade or province of birth and according to nationality. This also shows the percentage (as per thousand) that this name represents over the total population of the group to which it refers, as well as the average age of people with that name.

The criterion for this application is to facilitate information on names which frequency is higher than 20 inhabitants in the national total. Results for those provinces or nationalities whose frequency is equal or less than 5 are not displayed. For this reason, the total frequency at a national level for some names may not be equal to the sum of the data

shown by province. In total, information with more than 24,000 names for each gender are provided.

Use of the application for one name frequency. Recommendations for making a selection

Province of residence/birth: the total, one province, several, or all may be selected. If you select two or more provinces, a table and a map will appear, with the provinces coloured in different shades, according to the frequency of the name. By clicking on or positioning the cursor over each province, the corresponding frequency data is displayed (as per thousand).

Decade of birth: one, several or all may be selected. When two or more decades are selected, besides the table, a graph will be displayed with the evolution of the name frequency over time, as an absolute value and as percentage. When mousing over the trend line, the frequency data is shown.

Nationality: one, several or all may be selected. Data will be displayed only in table format.

Sex: one of the two options must always be marked.

Name: they may be written in upper or lower case, without using abbreviations and removing accents, diaereses, hyphens and dots.

Both simple and compound names may be looked up. If the name is a compound name, it must not include particles such as “de”, “del”, “de la”, “de las”, “de los”. Those names that differ by a particle are considered to be the same. *For example, MARIA DEL CARMEN provides the same results as MARIA CARMEN.*

The results shown correspond to the exact name written, whether it is a simple or a compound one. *For example, when writing the name MARIA, the number of persons with exactly that name, as a simple name, is shown, excluding results for compound names such as MARIA ANGELES, MARIA ISABEL, ...*

List of all names: If you leave the *Name* box empty and select a single value in the other variables (province of residence, province or decade of birth, or country of nationality), a list will appear with the 5,000 most frequent names for the scope chosen, sorted in descending order by frequency.

Error messages: when an incorrect selection is made or a required option is left unmarked, error messages will appear, as an alert.

If the chosen criteria are properly applied and no data is shown, the following message will appear:

There are no inhabitants with the name you have searched for, nor is its frequency less than 20 for the national total (or 5 for the selected province/nationality)

In this case it would be convenient to check that you have written the name correctly, and that you have followed the recommendations indicated for this variable.