

How many types of figures does the INE publish?

Two types of population figures can be distinguished in the ordinary production of the National Statistics System, as follows:

- of the *statistical use of the administrative record* of the **Municipal Register of Inhabitants**
- of *statistical synthesis operations*, for measuring the present or future population: **Population Estimates and Projections**.

These two types of figures are available for the immediate past; for the present and near future, there are only population estimates and projections.

There is also a third population figure, deriving from the **Population Census**, which the INE has carried out each decade for the last century and a half.

What is the Municipal Register and what are statistical use figures?

The Municipal Register is the administrative record featuring the residents in a municipality, constituting proof of residence in the municipality and habitual abode therein. By using the Municipal Register, we are able to access figures for persons registered in each of the municipalities in Spain. Spanish legislation on local regimes establishes the guidelines for the compilation of the Municipal Register, to be carried out by town and city councils, and the obtaining of population figures from the review thereof on 1st January each year, supervised and coordinated by the INE. These figures are declared official by the Government for determining the number of provincial representatives by district, the making of decisions affecting municipal financing and jurisdiction, and other purposes established by law.

What are Population Censuses?

They are statistical operations carried out by INE with exhaustive research on the residents of each territory and detailed questionnaires on their demographic, social and economic features. They enable access to highly-detailed territorial and theme-based information. The last one was carried out on the reference date of 1st November 2001.

What are they and how many types of population estimates and projections does the INE make?

They are statistical synthesis operations whose objective is to estimate the recent population volume resident in Spain, or project its future development, using the best available information at any given point on the evolution of demographic phenomena determining it. Depending on the period of time covered, we can distinguish between **Population Projections**, **Population Now-Casts** and **Intercensal Population Estimates**.

What are Population Projections?

Population projections constitute a forecast of the future evolution of the population, calculated on an entry population, normally corresponding to the latest Population Census, and with a set of hypotheses on the future evolution of birthrate, mortality and migration.

What are Population Now-Casts (ePOBa)?

They constitute synthesis statistics, whose objective is to establish for any given moment in time, the population series resident in Spain, its Autonomous Communities and its provinces, broken down by sex and age. They are prepared using the best and most up-to-date information available, and it is a case of applying the most appropriate and contrasting analysis and demographic estimate techniques.

What are Intercensal Population Estimates?

Once the information from the latest Population Census carried out and the demographic evolution between the aforesaid Census and the previous one is known, this is used to review the population estimates corresponding to the intercensal period. Intercensal estimates have thus provided us with annual series from 1st January 1970 until 1st January 2002, which are entirely coherent with each other and link thereafter with the current population and with the population projections.

Why can Population Now-Casts not be directly deduced from the statistical use of our population record, the Municipal Register?

Basically for punctuality reasons and the nature of the record: Municipal Register figures require time to be generated and approved, and their creation is also subject to legal and administrative conditioning factors; on the other hand, the Municipal Register does not adequately capture emigration movements, especially in the case of the foreign population. Nonetheless, basic information on migration is supplied by the Municipal Register and without this crucial instrument, any estimations carried out would be fraught with difficulty or impossible in the current context.

Are there also different population figures in other countries?

The coexistence of different population figures for the same reference date is a general situation in the field of official, international statistics, with systems based on censuses, estimates at a given moment in time (Now-Casts) and projections on different planes. The existence of another type of figure is characteristic of the case of Spain, with this figure coming from the statistical use of the Municipal Register. Only those countries with highly-evolved population records, as is the case in Nordic countries, base their demographic statistics system on these, but even so they need estimates and projections on the immediate or distant future.

Schema of availability of information on the resident population in the Spanish National Statistics System

<i>Source type</i>	<i>Statistical operation</i>	<i>Time plane</i>	<i>Denomination</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Use of statistics from an Administrative Record	Counts on a given date of a live management file	Past dates	Review and Statistical Use of the Municipal Register of Inhabitants figures	From 1st January 1998. Available between six and twelve months after the reference date.
	Specific statistical operations	Specific reference date	Population censuses	Latest: 1 november 2001
Statistical operation	Synthesis operations with the best information available at any given point	Retrospective	Intercensal Population Estimates	Updated with each new Census
		Current	Population Now-Casts	Estimates at 1st January and 1st July of the current year
		Future	Population Projections	Non-periodic update. It is intended to be every three years

Main characteristics of the information available

<i>Denomination</i>	<i>Official nature of the results</i>	<i>Most frequent uses</i>	<i>Minimum territorial detail</i>	<i>Theme-based detail</i>
Review and Statistical Use of the Municipal Register of Inhabitants figures	In accordance with the Law on Basis of Local Regimes	Territorial financing by population ratio and determination of the number of political representatives	Municipality, census section and population units	Age, sex, place of birth and nationality (only sex in population units)
Population Censuses	In accordance with the Law on Public Statistical Services	Detailed structural information	Census section and other detailed units	Maximum theme-based detail
Intercensal Population Estimates		Analyses and indicators, supply of international Organisations and all types of users	Province	Age and sex (five-year age and sex groups in the provinces)
Population Now-Casts			Province	Age and sex (five-year age and sex groups in the provinces)
Population Projections			Province	Age and sex (five-year age and sex groups in the provinces)