

30 November 2022

Population and Housing Censuses 2021
First results

Las Rozas de Madrid, Tres Cantos (Madrid) and Sant Cugat del Vallés (Barcelona) are the municipalities with more than 10,000 inhabitants with the highest percentages of population with higher education.

Arroyo de la Encomienda (Valladolid), Cuarte de Huerva (Zaragoza) and Valle de Egüés/Eguesibar (Navarra) lead the municipalities with more than 10,000 inhabitants with the highest activity rates.

The 2021 census gives way to a new model based on administrative records, which will provide census information every year from 2022 onwards.

The National Statistics Institute (INE) today publishes the first results of the Population and Housing Censuses 2021. The main variables referring to the population are offered, very detailed in the territory (up to census section).

The rest of the population variables will be disseminated in February 2023. And the data on households and dwellings will be published in June 2023, which will complete the publication of all the results of the census operation.

Unlike the censuses carried out in Spain since the 19th century, which were constructed with information compiled by interviewing households, the 2021 census has been compiled by combining dozens of administrative registers, without surveying any dwellings.

Spain thus joins a small group of European countries that base their demographic censuses on these data sources (see section "New census compilation method").

In addition, the census ceases to be a decennial publication, as has been the case uninterruptedly since 1857¹, and with the next edition in 2022, it will begin to be published annually.

¹ Official population censuses: 1857, 1860, 1877, 1887, 1897, 1900, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930, 1930, 1940, 1950, 1960, 1971, 1981, 1991, 2001, 2011. More information at https://www.ine.es/censos2011/censos2011_ante.htm

Population as of 1 January

The resident population in Spain on 1 January 2021 stood at 47,400,798 inhabitants, according to the census. This figure is very similar to the 47,385,107 offered by the results of the register of inhabitants on that same date, the register on which the census is based.

Evolution of the population since 2011

In relation to the previous census, carried out in 2011, the population has grown by 584,882 persons, representing an increase of 1.2%.

In these 10 years the foreign population has increased by 2.9% (150,229 people), well below the 234.1% growth it experienced between the 2001 and 2011 censuses.

Comparison between the population in 2011 and 2021

	Population		Growth	
	2021 Census	2011 Census ^(*)	Absolute	Relative (%)
Spaniards	41,998,096	41,563,443	434,653	1.0
Men	20,534,537	20,372,386	162,151	0.8
Women	21,463,559	21,191,057	272,502	1.3
Foreigners	5,402,702	5,252,473	150,229	2.9
Men	2,714,074	2,731,917	-17,843	-0.7
Women	2,688,628	2,520,556	168,072	6.7
TOTAL	47,400,798	46,815,916	584,882	1.2
Men	23,248,611	23,104,303	144,308	0.6
Women	24,152,187	23,711,613	440,574	1.9

(*) Reference date as of November 1

Population by Autonomous Communities and provinces and municipalities

The evolution of the population over the last 10 years has been uneven across the country.

By Autonomous Community, Illes Balears (7.5%), Comunidad de Madrid (4.7%) and Canarias (4.6%) presented the greatest increases in relative terms, whereas Castilla y León (-6.1%), Principado de Asturias (-5.9%) and Extremadura (-3.9%) lost the most population.

By province, more than half had reduced their number of inhabitants. The greatest decreases were registered in Zamora (-11.7%), Cuenca (-8.7%) and León (-8.3%).

On the other hand, the provinces that have grown the most between 2021 and 2011 were Illes Balears (7.5%), Malaga (6.4%) and Almeria (6.1%).

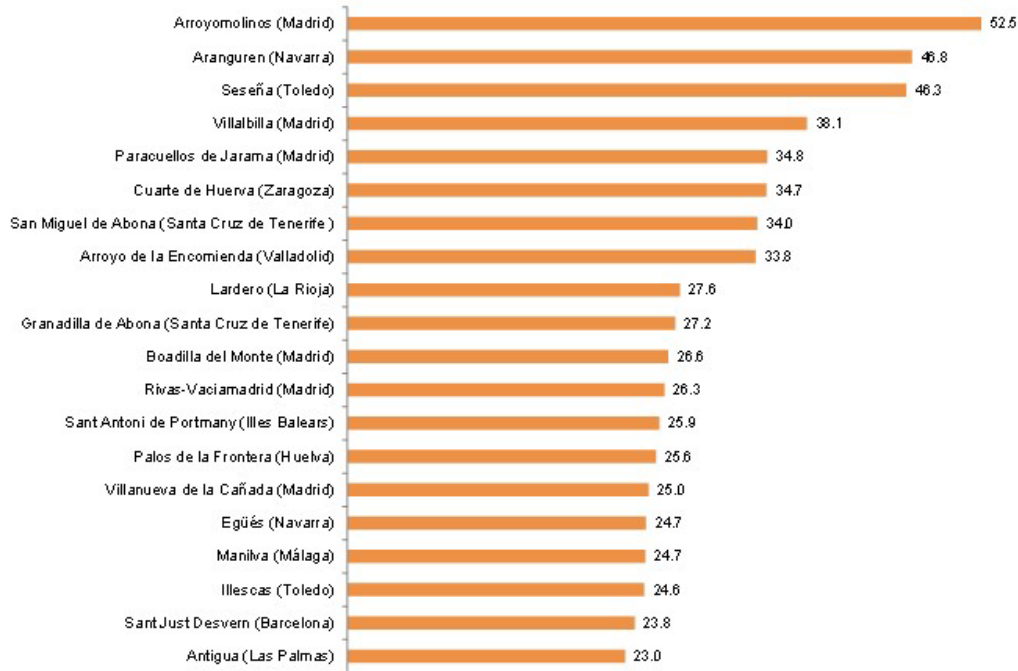
Population by municipalities with more than 10,000 inhabitants

Almost three quarters of Spanish municipalities have lost population in the last 10 years. Among them, Cangas del Narcea (Principality of Asturias), which has the largest decline of 15.1%.

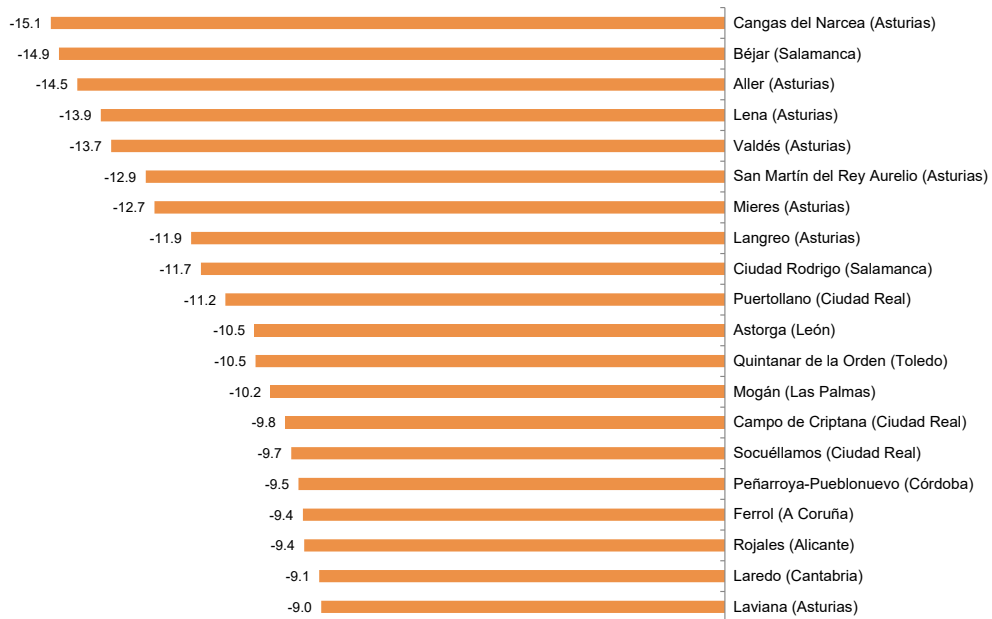
As occurred in the last decade, seven of the 10 municipalities with more than 10,000 inhabitants that have lost the most population since the previous census are in the Principality of Asturias.

In contrast, Arroyomolinos (Madrid), Aranguren (Comunidad Foral de Navarra) and Seseña (Toledo) have grown the most, with population increases of over 45% since 2011.

The 20 municipalities with more than 10,000 inhabitants with the highest relative population growth between 2011 and 2021. Percentage



The 20 municipalities with more than 10,000 inhabitants with the greatest relative population decrease between 2011 and 2021. Percentage



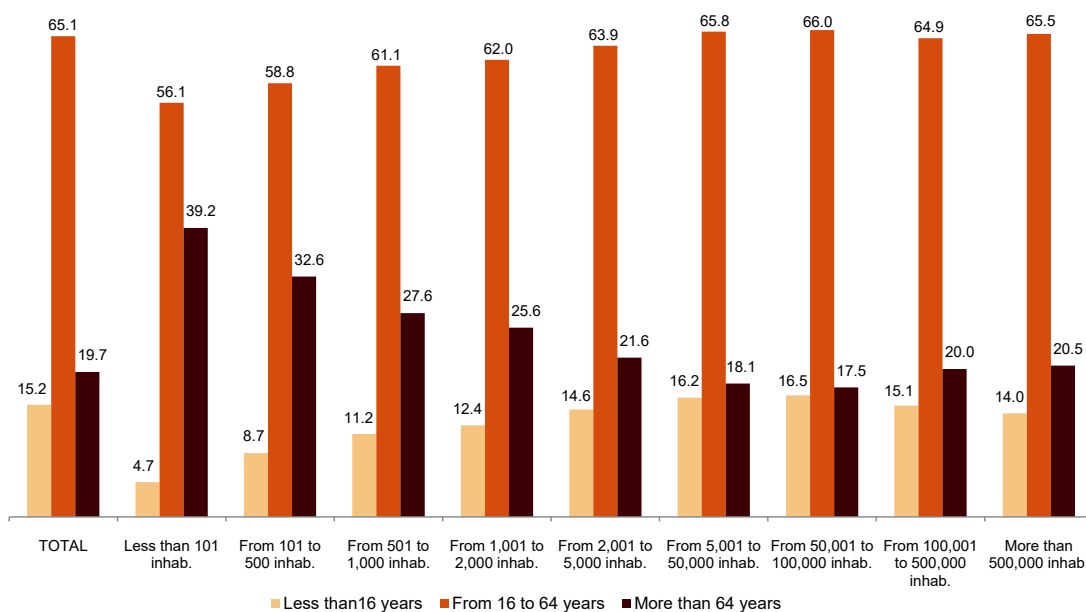
Aging population

Between 2011 and 2021, the relative weight of the population over 64 years of age increased from 17.3% to 19.7%. This means that the dependency ratio of the over-64s² -which is the ratio between the population aged over 64 and the population aged 16 to 64, the ages considered to be active- will increase from 0.26 to 0.30 in those 10 years.

In the smallest municipalities (less than 101 inhabitants), persons over 64 years of age represent 39.2% of the population, while persons under 16 years of age represent 4.7%.

The age structure becomes more balanced if we consider larger municipalities. Thus, the weight of the group over 64 years of age decreased to 17.5% in municipalities with between 50,001 and 100,000 inhabitants, in which those under 16 years of age accounted for 16.5% of the population.

Percentage of population by age group according to municipality size



In addition to showing the demographic characteristics of the people resident in Spain, the census also provides abundant information on other characteristics of the population that do not appear in the census.

In particular, this first publication of results offers variables such as the relationship with economic activity (active, employed, unemployed...), educational level, studies in progress or previous residences of the population.

² The dependency rate of persons over 64 years of age is defined as the ratio between the population over 64 years of age and the population between 16 and 64 years of age, ages considered to be active.

Relationship to economic activity

Considering the 759 municipalities with more than 10,000 inhabitants, those with the highest activity rates³, on 1 January 2021 were Arroyo de la Encomienda (76.1%), Cuarte de Huerva (75.8%) and Valle de Egüés /Eguesibar (75.4%).

On the opposite side, the municipalities with the lowest activity rates were Rojales (28.5%), Son Servera (37.3%) and Teulada (39.2%).

Municipalities with more than 10,000 inhabitants according to Activity Rate

Percentage

Municipality	Highest rate	Municipality	Lowest rate
Arroyo de la Encomienda (Valladolid)	76.1	Rojales (Alicante/Alacant)	28.5
Cuarte de Huerva (Zaragoza)	75.8	Son Servera (Balears, Illes)	37.3
Valle de Egüés/Eguesibar (Navarra)	75.4	Teulada (Alicante/Alacant)	39.2
Arroyomolinos (Madrid)	73.2	Capdepera (Balears, Illes)	40.7
Huércal de Almería (Almería)	71.4	Aller (Asturias)	40.8
Aranguren (Navarra)	70.6	Santa Margalida (Balears, Illes)	41.1
Paracuellos de Jarama (Madrid)	70.3	Jávea/Xàbia (Alicante/Alacant)	42.4
Alovera (Guadalajara)	69.5	Santanyi (Balears, Illes)	42.6
Seseña (Toledo)	69.2	Alfàs del Pi (I) (Alicante/Alacant)	43.0
Villalbilla (Madrid)	69.1	Alcúdia (Balears, Illes)	43.1
Rivas-Vaciamadrid (Madrid)	69.0	San Martín del Rey Aurelio (Asturias)	43.2
Daganzo de Arriba (Madrid)	68.9	Calp (Alicante/Alacant)	43.3
Vegas del Genil (Granada)	68.5	Lloret de Mar (Girona)	43.4
Meco (Madrid)	68.1	Cangas del Narcea (Asturias)	43.6
Velilla de San Antonio (Madrid)	67.6	Mieres (Asturias)	43.8
Humanes de Madrid (Madrid)	67.4	Fuengirola (Málaga)	43.8
Illescas (Toledo)	67.3	Pollença (Balears, Illes)	44.2
Valdemoro (Madrid)	67.1	Laviana (Asturias)	44.2
Gabias (Las) (Granada)	67.0	Lena (Asturias)	44.3
Casar (El) (Guadalajara)	66.8	Ribeira (Coruña, A)	44.3

The three municipalities with more than 10,000 inhabitants with the lowest percentages of unemployed⁴ on 1 January 2021 were Pozuelo de Alarcón (Madrid), with 3.9%, Boadilla del Monte (Madrid), with 4.1%, and Sant Just Desvern (Barcelona), with 4.2%.

Conversely, Barbate (24.3%), Arcos de la Frontera (21.7%) and Chipiona (21.4%), all located in the province of Cádiz, presented the highest unemployment percentages.

³ For the purposes of the 2021 Population Census, the activity rate is defined as the quotient between the active population (which is the sum of employed and unemployed) estimated the week prior to 1 January 2021 and the population aged 16 years old and over on that date.

⁴ For the purposes of the 2021 Population Census, we consider the percentage of unemployed as the quotient between the estimated unemployed population in the week prior to 1 January 2021 and the population aged 16 and over on that date.

Municipalities with more than 10,000 inhabitants according to percentage of unemployed people

Percentage

Municipality	Highest percentage	Municipality	Menor percentage
Barbate (Cádiz)	24.3	Pozuelo de Alarcón (Madrid)	3.9
Arcos de la Frontera (Cádiz)	21.7	Boadilla del Monte (Madrid)	4.1
Chipiona (Cádiz)	21.4	Sant Just Desvern (Barcelona)	4.2
Vejer de la Frontera (Cádiz)	20.1	Sant Cugat del Vallès (Barcelona)	4.5
Cabezas de San Juan (Las) (Sevilla)	19.5	Oñati (Gipuzkoa)	4.6
Línea de la Concepción (La) (Cádiz)	19.2	Rozas de Madrid (Las) (Madrid)	4.7
Villamartín (Cádiz)	18.8	Villaviciosa de Odón (Madrid)	4.7
Chiclana de la Frontera (Cádiz)	18.8	Majadahonda (Madrid)	4.7
Ceuta (Ceuta)	18.6	Torrelodones (Madrid)	4.8
Sanlúcar de Barrameda (Cádiz)	18.6	Tres Cantos (Madrid)	4.8
Guillena (Sevilla)	18.6	Sant Quirze del Vallès (Barcelona)	4.9
Utrera (Sevilla)	18.4	Villanueva de la Cañada (Madrid)	5.0
Medina-Sidonia (Cádiz)	18.4	Bergara (Gipuzkoa)	5.1
Puebla del Río (La) (Sevilla)	18.2	Hondarribia (Gipuzkoa)	5.2
Jerez de la Frontera (Cádiz)	18.0	Vilassar de Mar (Barcelona)	5.2
San Juan de Aznalfarache (Sevilla)	18.0	Sóller (Balears, Illes)	5.2
Ubrique (Cádiz)	17.9	Oiartzun (Gipuzkoa)	5.2
Santa Lucía de Tirajana (Palmas, Las)	17.6	Zarautz (Gipuzkoa)	5.3
Puerto Real (Cádiz)	17.5	Azpeitia (Gipuzkoa)	5.3
Camas (Sevilla)	17.4	Garriga (La) (Barcelona)	5.3

Educational level of the population

According to the census, 31.8% of persons over 15 years of age had higher education⁵ in 2021. By sex, this percentage was 33.1% in women and 30.3% in men.

In the younger age groups, a greater proportion of women than men with higher education was observed. Thus, 55.7% of those aged between 25 and 29 years old had higher education degrees, as compared with 42.0% of men.

In contrast, in the older age groups, the relationship was reversed. 21.9% of men between 70 and 74 years of age had higher education, compared to 13.3% of women in the same age group.

The provinces with the highest percentage of population with a higher education were Gipuzkoa (42.8%), Bizkaia (41.3%) and Madrid (40.8%).

Conversely, Cuenca (22.3%), Almería (22.9%) and Toledo (23.4%) presented the lowest percentages of population with higher education.

⁵ For the purposes of the 2021 Population Census, categories 51, 52, 61-63, 71-75, 81 of the CNED-A are considered higher studies. That is, the categories "Vocational training, plastic arts and design and sports education of higher degree and equivalent; university degrees that require a bachelor's degree, lasting 2 years or more", "University degrees of up to 240 ECTS credits, university graduates, university degrees of expert or specialist, and similar", "University degrees of more than 240 ECTS credits, graduates, master's degrees and specialities in Health Sciences by the residency system, and similar" and "Doctorate studies".

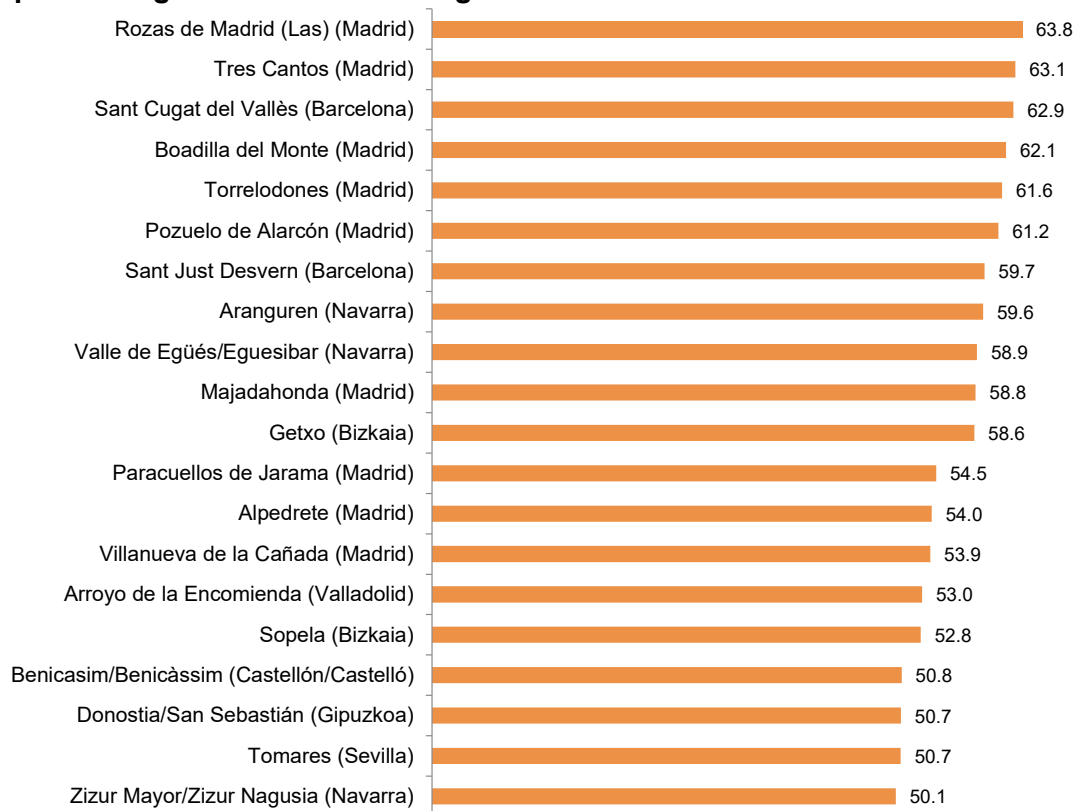
Percentage of persons aged 16 and over with tertiary education by province

Province	Percentage	Province	Percentage
Gipuzkoa	42.8	León	28.4
Bizkaia	41.3	Girona	28.0
Madrid	40.8	Balears, Illes	27.6
Araba/Álava	40.7	Palmas, Las	27.3
Navarra	37.0	Córdoba	27.2
Barcelona	36.3	Castellón/Castelló	27.0
Burgos	35.0	Lugo	26.9
Valladolid	34.5	Teruel	26.9
Zaragoza	34.0	Málaga	26.6
Cantabria	33.6	Ávila	26.0
Asturias	33.0	Cádiz	25.9
Coruña, A	32.6	Melilla	25.8
Salamanca	32.4	Murcia	25.7
Valencia/València	31.9	Badajoz	25.1
TOTAL NACIONAL	31.8	Albacete	25.0
Segovia	31.4	Zamora	24.9
Guadalajara	31.1	Cáceres	24.9
Soria	30.9	Ceuta	24.8
Rioja, La	30.7	Ciudad Real	24.8
Granada	30.4	Ourense	24.5
Huesca	30.2	Jaén	24.5
Palencia	30.1	Huelva	24.4
Lleida	29.2	Alicante/Alacant	24.0
Tarragona	29.1	Toledo	23.4
Pontevedra	29.1	Almería	22.9
Santa Cruz de Tenerife	29.0	Cuenca	22.3
Sevilla	28.6		0.0

The municipalities with more than 10,000 inhabitants with the highest percentage of persons aged 16 years old or over with higher education were concentrated around Madrid and Barcelona.

In Las Rozas de Madrid, Tres Cantos, Sant Cugat del Vallés, Boadilla del Monte, Torrelodones and Pozuelo de Alarcón, the percentages were above 60%.

Municipalities with more than 10,000 inhabitants according to percentage of population aged 16 or over with higher education.



Ongoing studies

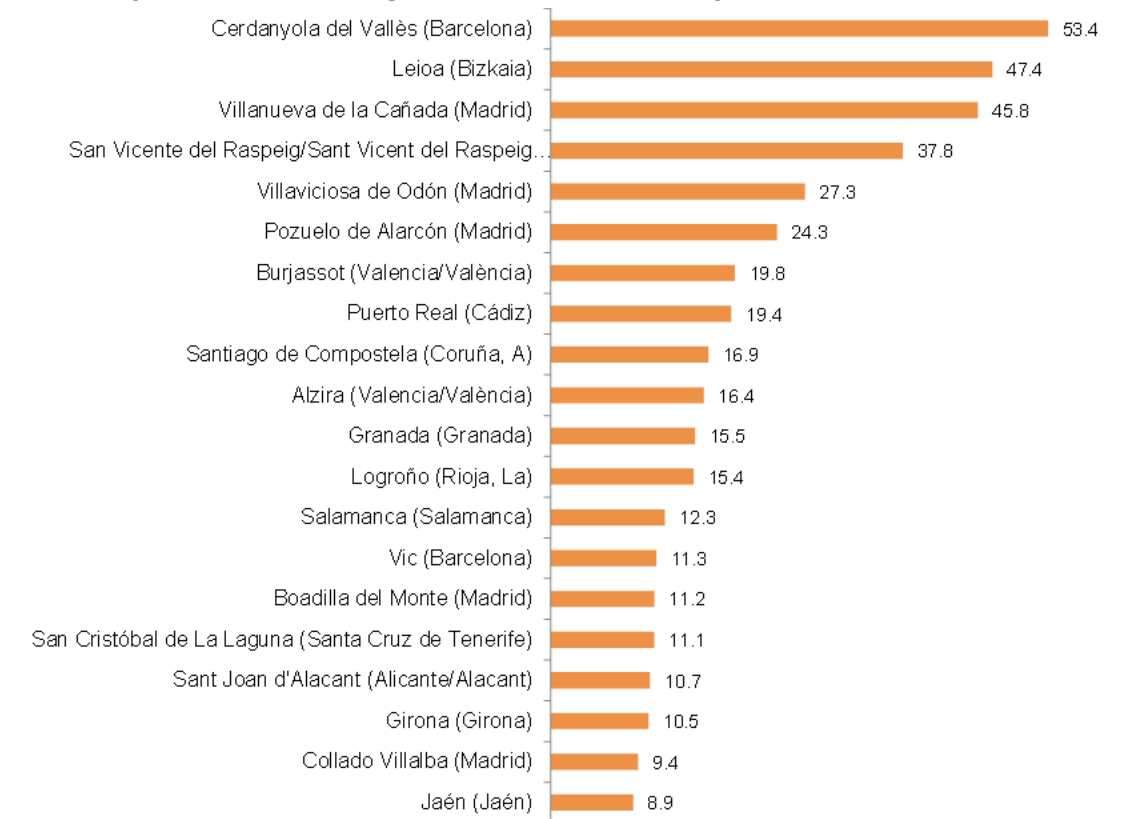
The number of persons pursuing higher studies in Spain reached 2,058,756, according to the 2021 census, accounting for 5.2% of the adult population. 24.3% were studying vocational training, plastic arts and design or sports at a higher level, as compared with 75.8% who were studying at university.

By provinces, the population undertaking higher vocational training studies as a percentage of the total higher studies varies from 19.5% in Salamanca to 30.2% in Las Palmas.

The municipalities with more than 10,000 inhabitants that presented the highest percentage of resident population studying at university were Abrera (Barcelona) and Pozuelo de Alarcón and Villaviciosa de Odón (both in Madrid), with 20.3%, 9.0% and 8.8% of university students over the population aged 18 years old and over, respectively.

On the other hand, the municipalities with the highest percentage of university students residing in another municipality were Cerdanyola del Vallés (Barcelona), Leioa (Bizkaia) and Villanueva de la Cañada (Madrid).

Municipalities with more than 20,000 inhabitants with the highest percentage of university students residing in another municipality.



Previous residences

71.6% of the population resided in the same municipality as 10 years earlier. In the 2011 census this percentage was 70.1%.

On the other hand, the percentage of persons who resided abroad 10 years ago was slightly lower than in the previous census. Thus, they have gone from representing 7.3% of the population in 2011, to 6.0% in 2021.

Ratio between place of residence 2001-2011 (Census 2011) and 2011-2021 (Census 2021)

	2011 Census		2021 Census	
	Relationship between place of residence in 2001 and 2011(**)	Percentage	Relationship between place of residence in 2011 y 2021(*)	Percentage
TOTAL	46,574,726	100.0%	47,400,798	100.0%
In the same municipality	32,629,428	70.1%	33,935,677	71.6%
In a different municipality in the same province	3,568,379	7.7%	3,981,497	8.4%
In a different province of the same community	459,560	1.0%	582,479	1.2%
In another community	1,630,814	3.5%	1,877,878	4.0%
Resided abroad	3,417,998	7.3%	2,833,838	6.0%
Not applicable (not born)	4,868,547	10.5%	4,188,420	8.8%

(*) Census 2021 data: do not add up to the total because there is a small amount of data where this variable is not recorded.

(**) In the 2011 Census data refer to population in family dwellings. There is no data for the population in collective establishments.

According to the 2021 census, the provinces with the highest percentage of allochthonous residents (that is, those born outside of them) were Guadalajara (54.5%), Girona (47.8%) and Tarragona (47.5%).

In turn, the provinces with the lowest percentage of persons born outside these were Jaén (13.2%), Córdoba (14.6%) and Badajoz (15.3%).

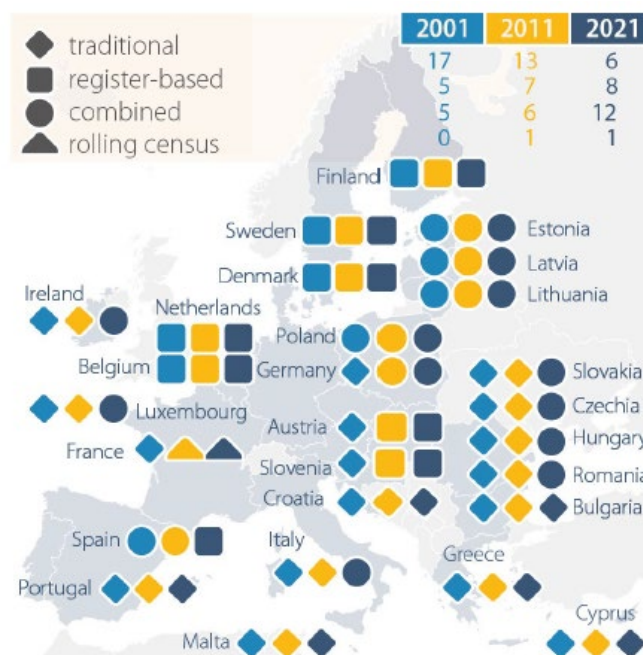
New census method

The population census is probably the statistical operation carried out in the largest number of countries in the world. According to the United Nations, in the 2005-2014 round, a total of 214 countries (representing 93% of the population) conducted a census, most of them in the years 2010 and 2011, while only 21 countries, many of them in unstable political situations or conflict, were unable to carry it out.

During the last decades, the most developed countries have been moving towards the construction of population censuses from administrative registers, as it is considered to be the best and most efficient method. This trend has been further accelerated by the COVID-19 crisis, which has greatly affected the global round of censuses .⁶

Only fifteen countries in the world already base their censuses on administrative data. In the European Union there are eight countries, the largest of which is Spain.

Collection methods of the Population Censuses in the EU-27 (2001, 2011, 2021)



Source: European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS) based on data from UNECE and NSIs of EU Member States.

⁶ The United Nations conducted a survey on the impact of COVID-19 on censuses around the world and only 15 countries, including Spain, stated that the pandemic did not alter census plans because they were based on administrative records: <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/census/COVID-19/>.

Revisions and updating of data

Data at the infra-municipal level, by census districts and sections, are **provisional**. All results are available on the census dissemination system⁷.

Methodological note

Today, the INE publishes the first results of the Population and Housing Censuses 2021. In this first release, the main variables referring to the population are disseminated, in a very detailed manner in the territory.

In February 2023, the rest of the population variables will be published. And in June 2023, the dissemination of the census results will be completed with data on households and dwellings.

Type of operation: Statistics with a ten-year 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 for results: data are provided as of 1 January 2021.

Dissemination frequency: decennial.

For more information you can access the methodology at:

https://www.ine.es/censos2021/censos2021_meto.pdf

And to the standardized methodological report in:

<https://www.ine.es/dynt3/metadatos/es/RespuestaDatos.htm?oe=30243>

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https://www.ine.es/dynngs/INEbase/es/operacion.htm?c=Estadistica_C&cid=1254736176992&menu=resultados&idp=1254735572981