

14 December 2023

(Modified February 21, 2024)

Central Business Register (CBR) as at 1 January 2023

The number of economically active⁽¹⁾ enterprises increased 0.5% during 2022 and stood at 3.20 million

18.3% of active enterprises were 20 or more years old and 19.0% were less than two years

As of January 1, 2023, there were 3,207,580 active companies in Spain.

The *Rest of the Services sector*, had the highest weight in the structure of the population of companies. On 01 January 2023, it represented 62.6% of the total.

This sector, which had 2,006,380 active enterprises, includes all those dedicated to 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 weight of *Trade* was also significant, with 20.2% of the total. This sector includes companies which carry out wholesale trade, retail trade and commission trade.

Finally, Construction sector companies represented 11.8% of the total and Industrial sector companies 5.5%.

Active companies by number of employees

1.71 million enterprises did not employ any employees at all at January 1, 2023. This figure represented 53.6% of the total. Besides this, 897,786 companies (28.0% of the total) had one or two employees. If these two groups are added together, 81.6% had two or less employees.

Considering only the companies with employees, those that had 20 or more employees represented 4.8% of the total.

(1) The number of companies relative to the previous year has been compared in homogeneous terms, transferring the concept of economically active company to the results obtained in 2021.

The highest percentage of small companies occurred in the *Rest of the Services* sector (84.2% had two or less employees). In turn, the weight of large companies was concentrated in the *Industrial* sector, where 9.1% of the total employed 20 or more workers.

Active enterprises by economic sector and classes (number of employees)

Reference: 1 January 2023

	Total	Industry	Construction	Trade	Rest of the services
TOTAL	3,207,580	177,865	376,996	646,339	2,006,380
Without employees	1,719,297	56,708	200,226	289,387	1,172,976
1 to 2 employees	897,786	51,083	105,469	225,157	516,077
3 a 5 employees	309,528	24,196	35,146	79,599	170,587
6 to 9 employees	128,079	15,022	16,092	28,665	68,300
10 to 19 employees	81,822	14,649	11,849	12,783	42,541
20 or more employees	71,068	16,207	8,214	10,748	35,899

Active companies by age

Only 18.3% of the active companies existed 20 or more years ago.

On the contrary, as a matter of fact, 19.0% had less than two years as economically active units.

Company age distribution shows significant variations according to the different activity sectors considered. Thus, industrial companies have the highest proportions of veteran companies (31.3% are 20 years old or over).

More young companies are represented in activities related to the *Services* sector, especially in *Hospitality* (22.0% have not yet completed their second year of existence) and *Construction* (21.1%).

Active enterprises by economic sector and age classes

Reference: 1 January 2023

	Total	0 - 1	2 - 3	4-7	8-11	12-15	16 - 19	20 or more
TOTAL	3,207,580	608,360	400,530	645,896	455,342	263,343	247,187	586,922
Industry	177,865	21,705	15,666	28,920	24,424	16,322	15,154	55,674
Construction	376,996	79,372	51,837	80,043	47,117	29,361	31,349	57,917
Trade	646,339	106,032	71,416	123,908	94,632	52,789	47,490	150,072
Transportation/Storage	198,091	33,770	26,765	29,057	23,682	15,594	17,538	51,685
Accommodation/food services	261,160	57,578	38,073	57,194	36,451	18,412	15,595	37,857
Other services	1,547,129	309,903	196,773	326,774	229,036	130,865	120,061	233,717

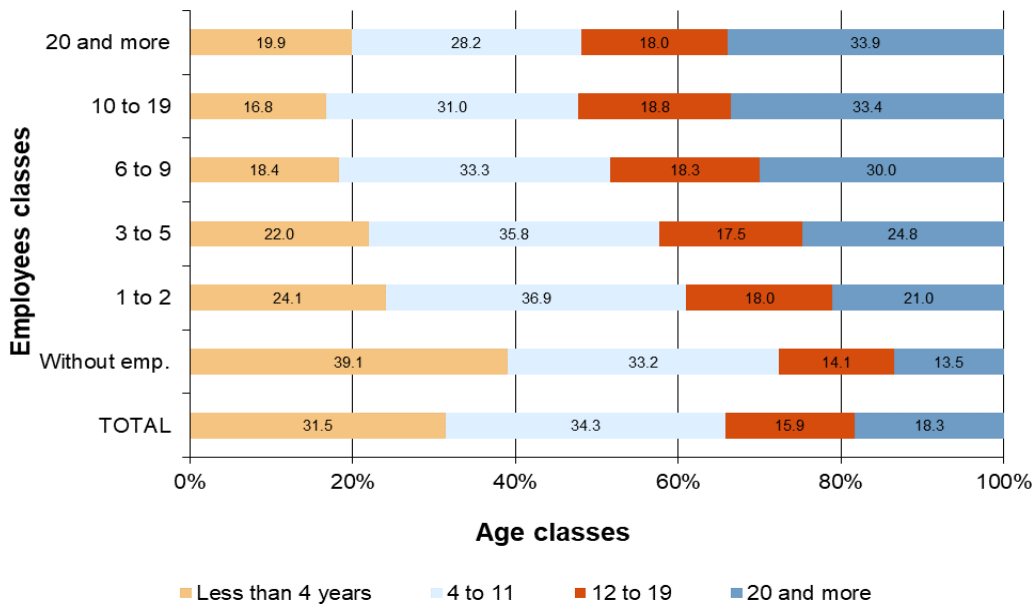
Active companies by size and age ranges

Distribution by age is linked to company size. Thus, the presence of very young companies was highly relevant as of January 1, 2023 in the microenterprise segment (39.1% of companies without employees were between their first and fourth years of life).

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

The following graph combines the age of the companies with other basic structural element, such as the size measured in function of its stratum of employees.

Age of companies by employee stratum



Active companies that have a natural person as legal foundation, by sex

The CBR registered 1,831,133 companies with a natural person as legal foundation at the 1st of January 2023. This population represented 57.1% of the total set of units.

From the total of these companies, 37.4% had a woman as natural person. It should be noted that the representation level is not homogeneous for all economic activities. However, activities related to *Education, Health and Social Services* sectors have a big presence of businesswomen (57.7%) and in *Retail trade* and *Other services* sectors, the presence of women was also notable, with 46.2% and 44.8% of the total, respectively.

On the other hand, men presence were the majority in *Construction* (97.1% of the total) and *Transportation and Storage* (89.5%) activities.

Detailed activity sectors, by entrepreneur gender

Reference: 1 January 2023

	Total	Men	Woman
TOTAL	1,831,133	1,146,614	684,519
Industry	60,140	45,997	14,143
Construction	197,622	191,971	5,651
Wholesale	63,682	48,178	15,504
Retail trade	311,874	167,782	144,092
Transportation/storage	152,175	136,262	15,913
Accommodation/food services	154,895	91,015	63,880
Education, health and social services	205,728	87,099	118,629
Other services	685,017	378,310	306,707

Company registrations and de-registrations

According to the evolution over the past year, 352,142 companies began the exercise of economic activities during 2022. On the other hand, 355,028 ceased all their activities.

80.2% of the units registered as at 01 January 2023 were already active in the same date of the previous year.

Enterprises by demographic event

Reference: 1 January 2023

Demographic event	Total	Percentage
TOTAL	3,562,608	100
Incomings	352,142	9.9
Staying	2,855,438	80.2
Outgoings	355,028	10

The sectors that created companies the most in net terms during 2022 were *Real estate activities* (6,010) and *Construction of buildings* (3,379).

Regarding the sectors with the highest negative balance, were *Retail Trade, except for motor vehicles and motorcycles* (-14,653) and *Land transport and transport via pipelines* (-6,533).

Sectors with greater net creation of enterprises

Reference. 1 January 2023

NACE 2009 Divisions	Incomings	Outgoings	Net balance
Real estate activities	19,517	13,507	6,010
Construction of buildings	26,423	23,044	3,379
Human health activities	15,871	12,996	2,875

Sectors with greater net decrease of enterprises

Reference. 1 January 2023

CNAE 2009 Divisions	Incomings	Outgoings	Net balance
Legal and accounting activities	6,189	8,036	-1,847
Wholesale trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles	17,145	19,973	-2,828
Food and beverage service activities	31,670	35,833	-4,163
Land transport and transport via pipelines	7,834	14,367	-6,533
Retail trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles	36,477	51,130	-14,653

Active companies by Autonomous Communities

Cataluña was the Autonomous Community which concentrated the greatest number of active companies at 01 January 2023, with 18.4% of the total.

This was followed by Andalucía (16.2%) and Comunidad de Madrid (15.7%).

Active enterprises by economic sectors and autonomous communities

Reference: 1 January 2023

	Total	Industry	Construction	Trade	Rest of the services
TOTAL	3,207,580	177,865	376,996	646,339	2,006,380
Andalucía	520,870	26,870	55,203	123,613	315,184
Aragón	83,953	5,867	10,321	15,889	51,876
Asturias, Principado de	64,611	3,132	7,370	12,688	41,421
Balears, Illes	97,784	4,570	16,325	14,371	62,518
Canarias	139,245	4,964	13,893	26,712	93,676
Cantabria	37,801	1,884	5,247	7,148	23,522
Castilla y León	148,223	10,589	20,478	32,291	84,865
Castilla-La Mancha	122,860	10,206	18,582	28,921	65,151
Cataluña	591,734	32,275	67,258	108,879	383,322
Comunitat Valenciana	352,990	22,155	41,243	74,764	214,828
Extremadura	63,094	4,392	7,627	17,102	33,973
Galicia	185,179	10,780	24,742	39,979	109,678
Madrid, Comunidad de	503,018	17,730	51,361	79,476	354,451
Murcia, Región de	91,290	6,646	10,930	22,146	51,568
Navarra, Comunidad Foral	41,152	3,728	5,351	8,069	24,004
País Vasco	134,859	9,864	18,010	27,022	79,963
Rioja, La	21,178	2,035	2,417	4,456	12,270
Ceuta	3,369	61	239	1,133	1,936
Melilla	4,370	117	399	1,680	2,174

Active establishments by Autonomous Communities

Active companies registered in the CBR carried out their activities in 3,732,601 establishments set up in all the national territory during 2022.

By Autonomous Communities, Cataluña concentrated 18.5% of total establishments, Andalucía 16.2% and Comunidad de Madrid 15.4%.

Active local units by economic sectors and autonomous communities

Reference: 1 January 2023

	Total	Industry	Construction	Trade	Rest of the services
TOTAL	3,732,601	217,502	415,873	822,542	2,276,684
Andalucía	603,710	33,039	60,693	152,655	357,323
Aragón	100,375	7,407	11,563	21,260	60,145
Asturias, Principado de	74,811	3,830	8,044	16,351	46,586
Balears, Illes	114,930	5,466	17,928	19,228	72,308
Canarias	166,966	6,226	15,492	37,300	107,948
Cantabria	43,516	2,213	5,703	9,080	26,520
Castilla y León	175,629	13,668	22,419	41,418	98,124
Castilla-La Mancha	142,722	14,085	19,382	35,235	74,020
Cataluña	690,507	39,844	77,402	141,687	431,574
Comunitat Valenciana	410,136	26,657	45,206	94,919	243,354
Extremadura	74,001	5,636	8,306	20,730	39,329
Galicia	214,709	13,074	26,587	50,845	124,203
Madrid, Comunidad de	576,446	19,497	56,308	101,261	399,380
Murcia, Región de	105,274	8,171	11,808	27,107	58,188
Navarra, Comunidad Foral	49,101	4,830	6,632	10,247	27,392
País Vasco	155,703	11,099	18,905	34,154	91,545
Rioja, La	25,109	2,529	2,778	5,723	14,079
Ceuta	4,009	90	286	1,402	2,231
Melilla	4,947	141	431	1,940	2,435

Data Review and Update

The data published today is final and is not subject to further revision. All results are available on INEBase.

Methodological note

Due to the EBS Regulation 2019/2152 and its Implementation Act 2020/1197, the statistical data of the Central Business Register (CBR) has adopted some methodological changes for 2022, so **data are not comparable with the previous exercises. These changes affect the calculation of the number of economically active companies.**

The new definition of company, implemented in the DIRCE system with reference to 2018, affects the aspects of organizational structure, autonomy of decision and market orientation. In short, the economic factors of the units prevail over the traditional vision, which is more oriented towards legal aspects. The data generated in the 2021 CCD reference cycle - recently published and the focus of this publication - are consistent with those of the three previous years and allow for the temporal comparison of aggregates.

The Central Business Register (CBR) gathers all Spanish companies and their local units located in the national territory in a single information system. It is a key infrastructure tool which enables the carrying out and coordination of the research system aimed at the productions units.

In order to meet this requirement, the CBR must be duly updated and the units must be shown with reliable identification, localization and classification data.

The CBR is compiled and maintained annually from data originating from diverse sources of a statistical and administrative nature. All this information is subjected to a sophisticated itinerary of cleaning, standardization and integration with the object of achieving total national coverage. It is normally published in the first days of December, date which is conditioned by the periods where primary sources are available.

The CBR is a product implemented by the INE since 1989 and contains information relative to the population of companies in the national territory, as well as of the local units where these carry out their activities.

Other objectives are:

- Provide structural data on the number of companies and premises existing in Spain classified according to their main economic activity, employee ranges, legal status and geographic location.
- Provide data on the temporal evolution of companies in terms of new companies, existing companies and companies closed, found in the year the Directory was updated, and their classification by the usual variables.
- Satisfy the information demands required by international organizations, and in particular, by the Statistical Office of the European Union (Eurostat).

Further information in:

<https://www.ine.es/metodologia/t37/t3730200.pdf>

<https://www.ine.es/dynt3/metadatos/es/RespuestaDatos.html?oe=30203>

INE statistics are produced in accordance with the Code of Good Practice for European Statistics, which is the basis for the institution's quality policy and strategy. For more information see the section Quality at INE and the Code of Best Practices on the INE website.

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